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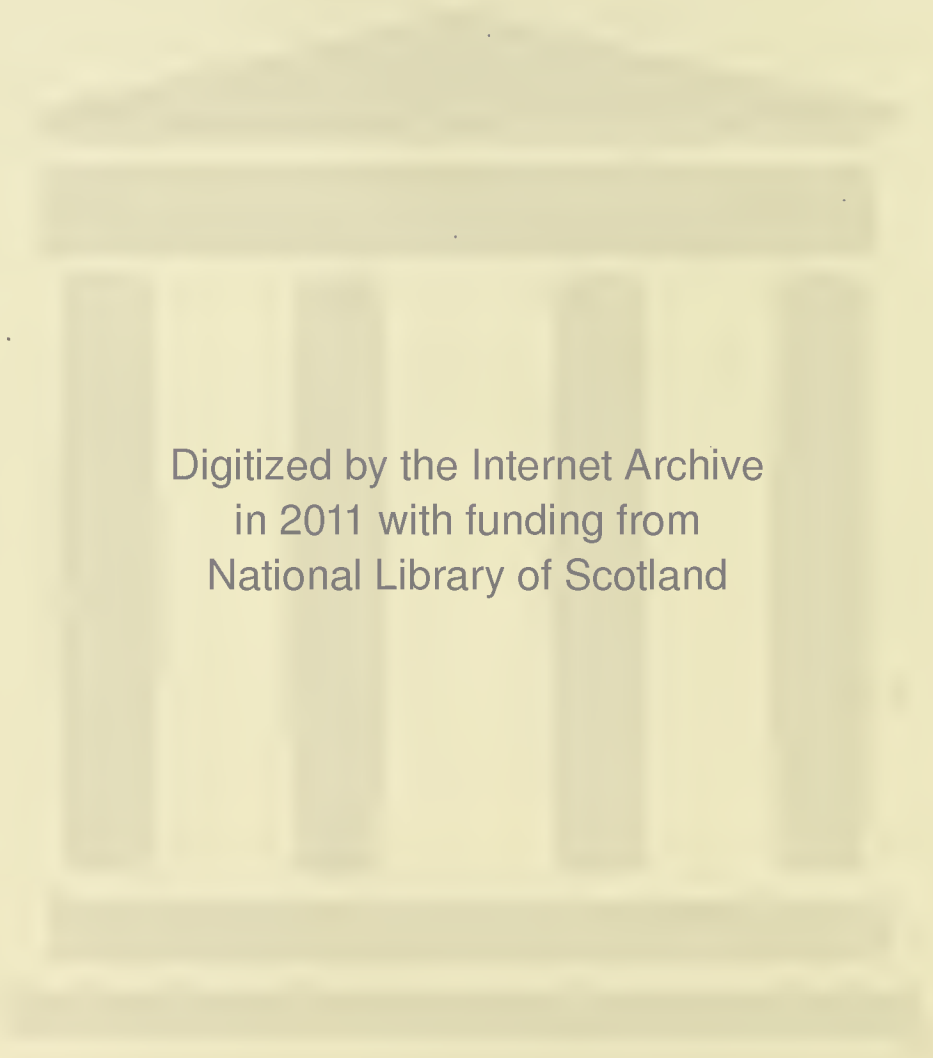

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MR. DOBIE AND MR. WILSON.

MEMOIR

OF

WILLIAM WILSON OF CRUMMOCK

BY

JAMES DOBIE, F.S.A. Scot:—

WITH A

PREFATORY NOTICE OF THE AUTHOR

AND

ADDENDA

BY

JOHN SHEDDEN-DOBIE OF MORISHILL

F.S.A. Scot., F.R.S.G.S.

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From the Editor

TO THE MEMORY

OF A MOST KIND AND INDULGENT FATHER,

AND A MOST LOVING AND DEVOTED MOTHER,

THESE RECORDS OF THE PAST—

IN WHICH THEY WERE DEEPLY INTERESTED

AND PLAYED WELL THEIR PARTS—

ARE DEDICATED

BY

THEIR LAST SURVIVING SON,

J. S.-D.

MORISHILL, *14th February 1896.*

PREFATORY NOTICE OF THE AUTHOR.

THE "Memoir of William Wilson" was not meant by Mr Dobie to appear in the printed form it has now assumed. That the author was an ardent admirer of the good man whose life he undertook to write, need not be said. In his private journal, under date 30th July 1837, he says:—"I wish I had leisure to write a memoir of Mr Wilson's life. It would be a useful narrative. His life was throughout a continual scene of benevolence and charity. He was, without exception, the most *moral* man I have known. That he was sinless, or spotless, or blameless would be arrogant presumption to assert; but oh! how many *professors* would his practice shame! Well has the poet said—'Be good, and let Heaven answer for the rest.'" And again, on 27th May 1838, he writes:—"In March and April last I drew up a memoir of Mr Wilson's life. This I was enabled to do from his own letters, which Bogston had carefully preserved, and from Bogston's letter-books, in which his part of the correspondence was engrossed. I had much satisfaction in performing this duty. The work extended to 414 pages of MS.,

and has been neatly half-bound. The latter part of the narrative introduces some painful occurrences; but I have overstrained nothing, and wished to put on record as little as possible which rested on my own testimony." Owing to these unfortunate family differences, much had been written in order to clear his own character from most unjust aspersions and imputations. They all tended, however regrettable, to show the benevolence and forgiving kindness of Mr Wilson's disposition, and have been now retained only in so far as necessary to show forth that most excellent gift of charity that pervaded his life throughout.

The author of the "Memoir," himself a most kind-hearted and truly benevolent man, is well worthy of being commemorated here.

Mr Dobie's ancestors, so far as handed down, were from the parish of Kirkconnel, in Nithsdale, where his great-grandfather, John Dobie, owned a farm. Being involved in the cause of the Covenant he fled to Ireland, and on returning found his land had been forfeited. He settled in Douglas, and married Jean Thomson of Glenim. By her he had a son, John, born in 1693, who became a farmer in Bowlee in that parish, and married, in 1735, Jean, eldest daughter of James White, in Kennochhead, and Elizabeth Broadfoot.

This James was son to James White of Egerton, whose forefathers had, previously to the persecutions, possessed that farm for 200 or 300 years, and who, among others, was proclaimed, on 8th October 1681, as having forfeited lives, lands, and goods for their treasonable rising in arms in the late rebellion at Bothwell Bridge. He is therein designed as "in Douglas." In 1684, he was ordered for transportation to America. He is named in the Act of William and Mary, in 1688, rescinding the fines and forfeitures of the preceding reigns of despotism and persecution.[1] John Dobie and Jean White both died in 1758, leaving two sons and two daughters. James, their eldest son, born in 1743, married, in 1770, Margaret, daughter of John Brown, in Douglas. He went to Paisley in 1771, where he got into the employment of the Messrs Fulton, silk manufacturers there, and, having been appointed their agent, went to Beith in 1777. He also held a branch of the "Paisley Bank," the first bank agency established in the town of Beith. His wife died in 1786, leaving a son and daughter. He married secondly, in 1787, Janet, eldest daughter of William Wilson of Bourtrees, in the parish of Lochwinnoch, and relict of John Fulton of Barcosh and Auchlodmont, by whom he had five sons and

[1] *Vide* "History of the Sufferings of the Church of Scotland," by Woodrow, vol. iii., p. 247, and vol. iv., pp. 8 and 12; edition of 1836: Blackie & Son, Glasgow.

two daughters.[1] The eldest child of this marriage, James Dobie, the subject of this notice, was born 29th July 1788.

After his school days were ended, Mr Dobie made choice of the Law as a profession, and at the age of fifteen entered on his apprenticeship with Mr William Dunn, writer in Beith. In November 1808, he went to Edinburgh, and, on being introduced by Mr Mathew Montgomerie, W.S., was engaged as writing clerk to Archibald Fletcher, Esq., Advocate. He became a favourite with both Mr and Mrs Fletcher, and was invited to their social evening parties. Of Mr Fletcher he had a very high opinion, as a man "of inflexible integrity and unbending principle;" and of Mrs Fletcher, who "entertained the *literati* of Edinburgh, and was looked upon as the leader of the 'Blues,'" he was a great admirer. "She spoke admirably, and was a beautiful woman. Her manners were very polite and affable, and there was a winning grace about all she said and did." From both he received much kindness, and a friendship arose which continued in after life. In order to see a variety of business, he entered the office of Messrs Montgomery & Innes, S.S.C., and attended the Scots Law Class of Professor Hume. On 10th March 1810, he passed Notary Public, and returned to Beith, when he entered into partnership with Mr Dunn.

[1] *Vide* Appendix IV.

He became a Freemason about this time, and is entered in the minute-book of Beith St John's Lodge, of 20th December 1811, as "passed and raised." He was elected Depute Master on 3rd September 1818, and R.W.M. on 30th November 1819; and was re-elected annually until he resigned on 1st December 1828. During his Mastership the minute-book and accounts of the Lodge were kept in his own handwriting, and were pronounced by the higher officials of Mother Kilwinning to be a pattern worthy of being followed by the other Lodges.

On Mr Dunn's death, in 1815, Mr Dobie was appointed Procurator-Fiscal for the Beith District Justice of Peace Court, clerk to the Heritors, and treasurer to the Road Trustees. At a later period he became agent first for the Glasgow Union Bank, and then for the Paisley Commercial and the Western Bank, with which it subsequently amalgamated. He soon took a leading part in all the affairs of his native parish, and was an active promoter of every project which had for its aim the improvement of the town and the benefit of its inhabitants. On 8th November 1835, a public meeting was convened in his honour, when he was presented with a handsome silver claret jug, bearing the following inscription:— "Presented to James Dobie, Esquire, Writer in Beith, by his Fellow-Townsmen, as a mark of their gratitude for his many

and valuable gratuitous services to the Public during a period of upwards of 20 years. 1835." He was pre-eminently the poor man's friend, and seldom, if ever, did the applicant for assistance in advice or charity, whether deserving or undeserving, Jew or Gentile, apply for relief in vain. As a matter of course, he was frequently imposed on. In politics Mr Dobie was a Liberal, and took an active part during and after the passing of the Reform Bill in 1833, when he acted as political agent for Richard Alexander Oswald of Auchencruive, the successful candidate for the county at the first election under the new franchise; and also for Sir John Dunlop of Dunlop, who succeeded him in the representation of the county. On the death of Mr Wilson of Crummock, he succeeded, conjointly with his wife, who was Mr Wilson's niece, to that property, and thenceforth it became his family residence. In Church matters, at the Disruption in 1843, he joined the Free Church party, and was mainly instrumental in forming the Free Church congregation in Beith, of which he afterwards became a ruling elder.

At a very early period of his life Mr Dobie showed a taste for literature, and indulged in effusions both in prose and verse. This he appears to have inherited from his father, who, *inter alia*, has left in manuscript a history and minute

statistical account of the parish, and also some verses not undeserving of preservation. One of these compositions, an answer to Burns' "Address to the Deil," was intended for the poet, but not sent. Mr Dobie's youthful attempts were in imitation of Burns' style, picked up from reading his father's copy of the first edition of the poems, which he had almost entirely committed to memory. He was educated at the Parish School, and attained considerable proficiency as a grammarian and arithmetician; in the classics, and also in French. According to his own account, he did not make much progress in Greek; but his translation of the first Ode of Anacreon was considered by some friends "as not remarkably unhappy!" It is as follows:—

"Of Atreus' sons I fain would sing,
Of Cadmus, mighty Theban king.
But ah! my lyre won't tune her strings
To sing of heroes and of kings,
But songs of Love are her delight,
Which she'll not alter day nor night.
The other day the strings I changed,
And them in different order ranged;
Then seized my lyre, again began,
And o'er Herculean labours ran.
But still the lyre refused her aid,
And Love her constant theme she made.
Henceforth adieu, ye heroes bold!
Your deeds by other bards be told.
My theme must be Love's fond desire,
For nothing else will please my lyre."

The foundation of Mr Dobie's future library was begun during his apprenticeship, at the end of which he found himself the proud possessor of about 50 volumes. When in Edinburgh, he cultivated his literary tastes, and added to his collection of books—a collection which finally amounted to about 4000 volumes, the greater part of them being standard works. After settling in Beith, his leisure hours were principally dovoted to literature and antiquarian research. He was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, on 14th January 1828; was one of the original members of the Maitland Club, and a member of the Spalding Club.

As an author, Mr Dobie began his career by the publication of various pamphlets, which, so far as they have been preserved, or noted in his journal, are as follow:—

Remarks on Certain Improvements lately suggested in the Town of Beith. Paisley: J. Neilson. 1825.

Hints for the consideration of the Meeting of the Heritors and Householders of Beith, to be held on Friday, 7th April 1826, for taking into consideration the best means of affording relief to the Operative Weavers at present out of employment. Beith: A. Gibson, Printer. 1826.

THOUGHTS ON THE SALVATION OF INFANTS, occasioned by some passages in the Memoir of the late Isabella Campbell of Fernicarry, Roseneath, in a Letter to the Rev. Robert Burns, D.D., one of the Ministers of Paisley. By John Thomson, Jun., Esq. Glasgow: James Hedderwick & Son. 1830.

In regard to this pamphlet, Mr Dobie has in his journal, of 13th March, the following notice:—"I have ventured on the public under a mask. I was struck with horror at certain passages in the Memoir of Isabella Campbell, written by Mr Storie, minister of Roseneath, on the damnation of infants. I considered the sentiments therein contained as derogatory to the Divine goodness, and I wrote some remarks for the purpose of tracing my own thoughts on the subject, it being one in which I felt my *heart* interested.[1] As my thoughts expanded, I resolved to print them as a pamphlet, in the form of a Letter to my friend Dr Burns, of Paisley, and to assume a feigned name. I did so, and signed the letter as from J. Thomson, jun.' Copies have been circulated among my friends, without the least suspicion of me. I hope I have taken a proper view of the question. It is the one *I* consider proper. I cannot view the character of God, reconciling sinners through Jesus Christ, to be so *unmerciful* as to

[1] Alluding to his first child, a girl, born prematurely.

condemn infants or young, immature minds to protracted sufferings, it being impossible to conceive any consequence to result from such punishment which would tend to glorify the attributes of Jehovah! It is nowhere said in the Gospel that man is to suffer in the next world for Adam's sin. He suffers for it severely in this. Children can have no personal guilt until they have understanding, and it is for personal guilt, and personal rejection of the Gospel, that mankind are to suffer."

A Letter to the Very Rev. Dr Singer, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, on the Legal Profanation of the Sabbath. By Archibald Boyd, Esq. of Drumlossie. Edinburgh: James Gall, Law Printer, 22 Niddry Street. 1830.

Of this Letter he says:—"It was circulated among the members of the Assembly on the second day of meeting. I have heard it talked of and approved. The subject might have been enlarged and discussed with more research and effect! My object was simply to rouse clerical attention, as I think the remedy lies with the Church. 'Archibald Boyd of Drumlossie' was a device of my own to puzzle the members to condescend in whose parochial charge this person was to be found."

LETTER TO WILLIAM BLAIR OF BLAIR, ESQ., M.P. for Ayrshire, on the Reform Bill for Scotland; with Lists of the Constituency in the Parishes of Beith, Dalry, Kilbirnie, Largs, and Kilbride. By James Dobie, Writer in Beith. Glasgow: Atkinson & Co., etc. 1831.

Of this he says, on 30th June 1831:—"My object is to show how it is likely to *work*, as I do think the *danger* of it, urged by its opposers, is entirely fanciful."

REMARKS ON THE LAW OF SCOTLAND relative to the Observance of the Sabbath, and on the proposed Legislative Measures on that Subject. By James Dobie, Writer in Beith. Glasgow: Atkinson & Co., etc. 1833.

REPORT ON THE AFFAIRS OF BEITH TOWN HOUSE, 1818–1838. Beith, printed by John Smith, 1838.

REPORT ON THE AFFAIRS OF THE POOR OF BEITH, submitted to the First Meeting of the New Parochial Board, on 3rd February 1846. "Reported by James Dobie." Beith: J. Smith & Son. 1846.

He was also an occasional contributor of reviews and obituary notices to the newspapers and periodicals of the day, for some of which see his collection styled "Parerga," to be afterwards noticed.

To the "Statistical Account of Ayrshire," published by William Blackwood & Sons, Edinburgh, 1842, Mr Dobie contributed as under :—

Parish of Dunlop.—The Rev. Mathew Dickie,—who, in a footnote, says :—"The writer of this account has to acknowledge his obligation to James Dobie, Esq., Beith, for supplying him with most of the particulars respecting the ancient state of the parish, which are incidentally mentioned."

Parish of Beith.—The Rev. George Colville says :—"This account has been furnished by James Dobie, Esq. of Crummock." In a footnote, Mr Dobie acknowledges the assistance of James Adam, W.S., Edinburgh, in the section on its Geology and Mineralogy; and of Alexander Spiers, surgeon in Beith, in the Botanical department.

Parish of Irvine.—Rev. John Wilson, A.M.,—who acknowledges the assistance, *inter alia*, of J. Dobie, Esq.

Parish of Largs.—Rev. John Dow,—in a footnote, says :—"Furnished by James Dobie, Esq., Beith;" who acknowledges the contribution in the department of Climate and Diseases by Dr John Campbell, Largs; in that of Geology, by William Montgomery, Esq. of Cloak; Conchology, Botany, and Zoology, by the Rev. D. Landsborough of Stevenston; and Parochial Economy and Industry, by James Wilson, Esq. of Haylie.

Parish of Kilwinning.—The Rev. Archibald Blair Campbell,—who, in a footnote, says :—"For the following notice of St Winning, and some others relating to the antiquities of the parish, I am indebted to James Dobie, Esq., Beith—a gentleman rich in antiquarian lore, and most obliging in communicating information and granting access to his valuable library."

Mr Dobie's principal publication, however, was his "Examination of the Claim of John Lindsay Crawfurd to the Titles and Estates of Crawfurd and Lindsay, containing an exposure of the forgeries on which that claim is founded, and a refutation of the statements in the book entitled 'The Crawfurd Peerage,' and in other publications on his case. William Blackwood, Edinburgh, and T. Cadell, London. 1831." As explained in his preface, from the repeated appeals by the wife of the claimant for his assistance, together with the seeming truthfulness of the papers she had collected in relation to her husband's claim, and his own natural inclination to take the part of the weak and unfortunate, the author had been induced to write a "Memoir of the Claim of Mr John Lindsay Crawfurd to the Titles and Estates of Crawfurd and Kilbirny," which was printed in Paisley by John Neilson, for the benefit of Mrs Crawfurd, in 1819. Further investigation, however, completely reversed his opinions; and, in the cause

of truth, the exposure of the falsehoods, forgeries, and villainies of the claimant and his friends became with him a necessity, and was conclusively effected in his "Examination." It was received most favourably by the reviewers, and by many men of eminence in legal, genealogical, and antiquarian knowledge, to whom copies of the work had been sent.

Lady Mary Lindsay Crawfurd wrote thus:—"Crawfurd Priory, February 14th, 1831.—Sir,—It is but justice to inform you that I have perused your book on the Crawfurd Peerage with much satisfaction. It gives a luminous and correct history of the whole circumstances of the case; and, while you have triumphantly repelled the calumnious attack made by John Crawfurd on your own character, you have succeeded in showing the public that his claim is entirely groundless. I have only to add that I hope you will derive that profit from the sale of this work, so justly due to its merits."

Sir Walter Scott writes from Abbotsford, 10th February 1831:—"Sir,—I have the honor to return you my best thanks for a large paper copy of Mr Crawfurd's detection, which name it completely merits. I always believed the fellow a cheat, on his own showing; and I hope he is now completely floored, as I have seen nothing of him lately. We

have been shut up here with snow, which made your present prove extremely acceptable."

His friend, Mr Cosmo Innes, the well-known Scottish legal antiquarian, thus writes :—"Edinburgh, 17th January 1831.—My dear Sir,—I received your book on Saturday, and have now to thank you for it, and to communicate the impression it has made on me while fresh from its perusal. I do not know if your adversary was an Antæus worthy your crushing. Perhaps his recovery from so many severe falls proved a vitality that entitled him to the honour of being put to death by you. I presume he is now extinguished. Each separate argument of those your book consists of, carries with it the fullest and most unhesitating conviction. What struck me most as approaching to demonstration (either from the neat concentration of the reasoning, or, perhaps, simply from its being *the first* conclusion of one of your problems) is the summing up of the Irish evidence, etc., producing the result of dates, on page 42. There, and at several other points, a reader must find your case made out satisfactorily, and will then go on to admire the ingenuity or the impudence that can be brought to oppose you. This with regard to the main object of the book, the conviction and exposure of an impudent pretender; but when I assure you that I read it through very attentively and deliberately, without a single

yawn or symptom of weariness, I am sure it is more than can be said for any other genealogical controversy of my acquaintance. I watched with great interest your dissection of a person who appears to have been too much art and part in the mystification of Mr Crawfurd. I had long known Huntington Bell to be a quack who was clever enough to make all England think him a prodigy ; but I did not know before, he had lent himself to the nefarious tricks which you prove against him. The trade of a genealogist has, unfortunately, too many temptations to these for a man of only moderate principle to resist. . . . Mr Orr's letter, if really written by the grieve, is admirable, as is in a different view your concluding extract from Crawfurd's case, page 136, with the *glossæ et commentariolus* thereon."

Sir Nicholas Harris Nicolas writes from London, February 1831 :—" Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge your acceptable present of the Exposure of the impudent pretensions of the late claimant to the Crawfurd Peerage, for which I beg to offer my best thanks. It is highly desirable that the evidence upon which a claim of this kind was refuted should be placed on record ; and, with respect to this particular case, you appear to have treated the subject in so clear and satisfactory a manner that nothing more can be desired."

From Mr Buckton, Barrister-at-law, who had been engaged

by the claimant in getting up his last case, he had the following letter:—"Doctors' Commons, February 8, 1831.—My dear Sir,—I am very much obliged to you for a copy of the book you have written respecting the claim of John Crawfurd to the Crawfurd Peerage. It is a perfect answer to all his pretensions; and not the least valuable part of the book is the quiet, gentlemanly, and dignified contempt with which throughout you have treated the horrible abuse which has been bestowed upon every person who has been calm enough to distinguish, and honest enough to avow, truth from falsehood. Twelve months since, I commenced a work of a similar nature, but other matters pressing upon me induced me, unintentionally, to abandon it. I had chalked out pretty much the same plan as that which you have adopted in your present book. I have now very much to congratulate myself and others that I was not more industrious; for although, had I written, the same truths would have appeared, yet the ingenious way in which you have told your story creates an interest which I am persuaded I never could have effected."

We conclude with the letter from Mr John Bowie, W.S., who had also been engaged in the case along with Mr Buckton:—"Edinburgh, 9th February 1831.—Dear Sir,—I was duly favoured with yours of the 3rd current, returning

copy of the Report in the Crawford case. I received some time ago a copy of your very able work, and for which I return you my best thanks. You certainly have done every justice to the case, and I should think the claimant has not now a leg whereon to rest his impudence.

"I happened accidentally to be at Holyrood House about a month ago, when Crawford was introduced. He came to present the ex-King [Charles X. of France] with a copy of his work, and to crave advice and assistance. Strange to say, he did not recognise me, but he addressed me as the King! This I believe from the circumstance that I was the only one in the room who was then sitting. The scene was altogether ludicrous, and after Crawford left the room we had a very hearty laugh. While he made his harangue, I looked as if I did not understand one word he said. He was lavish in his abuse of all who had ever been employed in his cause, and when he left the room he backed out like a perfect courtier. Since then I have not seen him."

Of the various manuscripts left by Mr Dobie, only those that he had bound or stitched together are thought worthy of notice here, and are arranged according to date:—

1. Some Notable Events in the History of Beith, from 839 to 1833.—Fragmentary.

2. Copy of the Records of the Presbytery of Irvine, in two folio volumes.

The Records of the Presbytery, as transcribed by Mr Dobie, are as follows:—Volume I., beginning with the Minutes of "A Presbitery holden at Irvin the 2d October 1646," ends on "2d Julie 1650." The transcription, with two trifling exceptions, is in his own handwriting, and was finished on 21st March 1835. As he proceeds with the transcript of the Minutes, the following remarks are prefixed to the commencement of each volume:—"The next volume of the Presbytery Records is lost, and the *second* volume, as now in the hands of their Clerk, commences on 17th August 1687, and ends 18th April 1699. The following excerpts and notes were begun on 11th June 1835."—"There is another volume awanting, so that there is no record of the proceedings of the Presbytery from 1699 to 1710. The volume next in order commences 26th September 1710, and ends 16th June 1730. I have gone over it, and extract from it the following miscellaneous matters."—"The next volume commences 7th July 1730, and ends 11th January 1743. It consists of 559 pages."—"The next volume commences 22d February 1743, and ends 14th August 1759. It consists of 637 pages."—"The next volume commences 11th September 1759, and ends 6th May 1794. It consists of 643 pages."

With the exception of the first volume, which is copied *verbatim et literatim*, the transcriptions consist merely of excerpts, and are in the handwriting of his office clerks.

3. Common Place Book.

4. Memoir of William Wilson of Crummock. 1838.

5. MS. Volume of Miscellanies, from 1820 to 1840.

6. Account of my visit to Paris in August 1847, in company with James F. Murdoch of Ayr. On 13th March 1848, he notes in his journal:—"I have been occupied with writing out an account of my visit to Paris, which recent events [the second Republic] have turned my thoughts to with increasing interest."

7. Visit to Fife and St Andrews in September 1848.

8. Essays:—Historical notices of the name Dobie or Dobbie, in its spiritual as well as corporeal aspects.—On Covenanting times, and the Church of Scotland.—Fast and Thanksgiving of 15th November 1849, for the diminution of cholera.

9. Rambles in 1849 and 1850:—Edinburgh, Alloa, Bannockburn, and Stirling, in 1849; London and Lambeth Palace, 1849; East Lothian, 1850; Douglas, 1850.

10. On the Acts of the Apostles; 1851.—Of this he says:—"Sabbath, 29th June.—To-night I finished a clean copy of remarks on the Acts of the Apostles, which I began to write on Sunday, 14th November 1847, and finished on

Sunday, 24th September 1848, having devoted my leisure Sabbath hours to it."

11. Memoir of Mary, daughter of Wilson Dobie Wilson. 1851.

12. Milton: a *résumé* of his Life and Works, and his Reviewers, more notably Dr Johnson; 1851:—To which is appended a catalogue of the various editions of Milton collected by himself, the more numerous being those of Paradise Lost. The list begins with the second edition of that poem in 1674; then follow fifty-two other editions of his works, according to the dates of their being printed, ranging from 1678 to 1846.

13. Visit to Aberdeen in September 1852.—"Sunday, 12th September.—On Wednesday I joined Mr and Mrs Kerr of Glasgow, and travelled by railway to Aberdeen. Spent Thursday there. On Friday reached St Andrews, and yesterday got home. The weather was fine, and the excursion on the whole very agreeable. I have some notes which I mean to extend."

14. Genealogical notes, folio,—fragmentary; last entry made in June 1853.

15. Parerga; or, The amusements of leisure hours: Being a selection of miscellaneous periodical contributions, by James Dobie, F.S.A., Scot. In two vols. 1853.

In a letter to his old friend, Mr John Kerr of Glasgow, to whom he had sent his two volumes for perusal, Mr Dobie explains that the name *Parerga* was a word picked up from Wodrow. The dates of the articles composing the volumes range from 1811 to 1847, and the greater number appeared under assumed names or initials in the newspapers or periodicals of the time. In Vol. I. the contents are:—On Inconsistency of Conduct; On Country Life; Thoughts on Conversation; Thoughts on Thinking; Dr Chalmers and Dr Wardlaw; On Affliction; Letters to Members of Parliament, No. 1; Scottish Entail Laws; Scottish Jury Trial in Civil Cases; Powers and Duties of Juries in Criminal Trials; Mr Kennedy's Poor-Law Bill; Friendly Societies; Sheriffs' Small-Debt Bill; The Millennium—Restoration of the Jews, Mr Cunninghame of Lainshaw, and the Rev. Edward Irving. Notes and Gleanings: Being a series of eighteen articles, chiefly on Scriptural subjects, which appeared in the *Edinburgh Christian Instructor*, 1838-41.

In Vol. II. :—*Reviews*:—Robertson's Ayrshire Families; Robertson's Rural Recollections; Juvenile Forget Me Not; Weir's History of Greenock; The Gairloch Heresy Tried; The Cabinet; Lord Brougham's Discourse on Natural Theology; Wilson's Popular Reflections on Parochial Institutions; Wilson on the Reasonableness of Christianity; Raumer's

England in 1835; Mure on the Calendar and Zodiac of Egypt; Zacharie Boyd's Last Battle of the Soul; Atkinson's Chamelion; Do., Second Series; Dibdin's Lent Lectures; Montgomery's Eight Sermons; Montgomery's Gospel before the Age; Burns' (Dr) Memoir of Dr MacGill; Arran, by D. Landsborough; Neil's Recollections of Four Years' Service in the East with H.M. 40th; Train's Buchanites from First to Last; Maitland Club Books, Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 :—To which have been added his Obituary Notices of Robert Ramsay of Beith, and of Captain Charles Gray, R.M., author of *Lays and Lyrics*, &c., from the *Ayr Advertiser*.

16. Beith Papers :—A Collection of Copies of Charters, Inventories, Law Papers, Minutes of Public Meetings, Pedigrees, Placards and Electioneering Broadsides, &c., &c., in 18 volumes folio.

17. Robertson's Ayrshire Families, in three volumes, interleaved, and containing many interesting notes and additions, has disappeared.

18. We now come to what Mr Dobie looked upon as his *Magnum opus*:—Cuninghame Topographized by Timothy Pont, A.M., with Continuations and Illustrative Notices, which he intended to be his contribution to the Maitland Club. Founding upon the transcript of Pont's original manuscript by Sir James Balfour, preserved in the Advo-

cates' Library, a copy of which had been made for him by his friend Mr Cosmo Innes in 1831, Mr Dobie's intention was to elucidate the history of persons and places mentioned in Pont's "Alphabett." With this object, in 1833, he had twenty-five copies of Pont's text printed in Beith, which he distributed to friends and brother antiquaries likely to assist him in these investigations. This he called his "Pilot Balloon." The returns obtained were only four, but these, to use his own words, he "turned to good account." From that date his researches continued to occupy his winter evenings up to the year of his death in 1853. During that time, "*Pont*" had become a familiar household word. On 15th January of the latter year, he notes in his journal:— "My labours on Pont are coming to a close. I have been revising and correcting the various articles, and will soon be able to dedicate the whole to Mr *Finis*, that extensive author in all departments." It was, however, destined that he should never see it in the printer's hands. After his death the Maitland Club resolved that Mr Dobie's labours should not be lost, and as his four volumes of manuscript had been placed by him in the hands of his friend and brother antiquary, Mr John Fullarton of Overton, in West Kilbride, for his revision, it was remitted to him to superintend the printing of Mr Dobie's work. When the volume was issued in 1858,

to the great dissatisfaction of Mr Dobie's friends it appeared in the form of a work by Mr Fullarton himself, in which Mr Dobie's name was barely mentioned in the Introduction. Remonstrance came too late — the deed was done. Mr Dobie's two surviving sons being both in Australia at the time of his death, nothing was undertaken to rescue his labour of years from oblivion till the return of the eldest son in 1870, under whose editorship it was at last published by Mr John Tweed of Glasgow in 1876.

Mr Dobie married, on 18th December 1815, Margaret, second daughter of John Shedden of Morishill,—the love of his boyhood,—by whom he had four sons and three daughters.[1] In all his family relationships he proved himself a most dutiful son, an affectionate brother, a loving husband, and a most kind and indulgent father. After the death of his father, on 10th February 1819, the family circle remained unbroken until the year 1838, when, on 1st June, his youngest and favourite brother, Wilson Dobie Wilson, died very suddenly while on a visit to his mother at Grangevale. This loss was long keenly felt by him, and the return of the day is annually referred to in his journal. The severest blow, however, was the death of his eldest son, James, who died at Crummock on

[1] *Vide* Appendix III.

10th December 1840. Only a few months previously (in July) he had been admitted a member of the Society of Writers to the Signet. He had then entered his 24th year, and was a young man of great promise, endeared to all by his amiable and social qualities, and the son on whom his father's hopes were centred. From this blow Mr Dobie never fairly recovered. Then followed the death of his youngest son, Robert Shedden, at the age of fourteen,—a talented boy, particularly with his pencil and pen,—who was drowned in attempting to cross the river Garnock at the ford near Kilbirnie Kirk on 1st June 1842. His second daughter, Janet Wilson, died in November of the same year; and his eldest daughter, Barbara Wilson, in September 1845. They had attained, respectively, the ages of twenty-one and twenty-five years, and their memories are still green among the older inhabitants of Beith as the most beautiful sisters they had ever seen:—They were, indeed, daughters of whom their parents had every reason to be proud. In January 1846, Elizabeth, his youngest and most genial, kindhearted sister died; and on 19th January 1850, his now aged mother departed, having entered her eighty-ninth year. In all these trying bereavements Mr and Mrs Dobie met with much sympathy from all classes of the community. Supported by grace from above, if with sore hearts, they bowed

in humble resignation to the Divine will, and consoled by the hope of meeting in the life to come.

The last entry in Mr Dobie's journal, under date 23rd June 1853, is as follows :—"Wilson Lyons [a nephew] and I, having resolved to see the sun rise this morning, left Crummock at two, and walked to the Cuffhill, the highest point in the parish. As we passed Grangehill we heard two cuckoos with softened notes. The blackbird and mavis were strong and cheerful. We were rather soon for his majesty, who did not rise for half an hour after we reached our destination. The morning was beautifully calm, there not being a breath of wind. The early cock had not proclaimed his message, nor did any chimney give evidence of a kindling fire. We gazed at the changing tints of the eastern sky in earnest expectation. At last one corner of the clouds gave way, and we had a brilliant burst of flame from the glorious King of day. Wilson read some stanzas of Beattie's 'Minstrel,' and when we saw the round orb free from the bed of clouds we descended, resting on St Inan's Chair, and drinking of St Inan's Well. We reached home by four. I went to bed, but did not sleep until the evening, when I felt ready for repose, which I then enjoyed. . . . It is announced in the newspapers that the *Typhoon* [the vessel

in which his son William Wilson had sailed] had reached Melbourne on the 4th March. We must soon have letters."

On the morning of the 29th June, the sixth day after writing the above record, Mr Dobie was dead. The sad event was communicated to his sons in a letter from Mr James Ferguson Murdoch of Ayr, dated Crummock, 2nd July 1853:—"My dear John,—I wish that my first letter to you had carried glad instead of very sorrowful tidings. I deeply regret to have to announce that you have lost your beloved father. This very sad and heavy stroke came most unexpectedly upon all here. He was perfectly well till the night of Monday last, the 27th ult., when your mother, in going upstairs, spoke to him while reading in the drawing-room, and inquired if he was not going to bed. She thought his answer a little uncommon, but was not alarmed till a little after, when in her room she heard a noise, and on going back found he had had a severe stroke of apoplexy. She got immediate assistance, and Dr Miller was on the spot in a very short time. He bled him freely, which gave relief; but the power of his left side was gone, and, though sensible, he could speak with difficulty. Dr Macfarlane [of Glasgow] saw him next forenoon, and had no hope of his recovery. He continued sensible till about four that

day, when he sunk into a kind of stupor, accompanied with heavy breathing, which continued till near four next morning (Wednesday), when he expired. I got notice of his illness about eight on Tuesday evening, and came up that night. . . . Both your mother and sister have been wonderfully supported under this sore affliction, and I trust the Lord may enable them to bear up still. . . . You may depend upon my doing all in my power for the comfort and benefit of both. I shall ever cherish with the most friendly recollection your father's memory. We have had much pleasing intercourse, and there is no friend whom I shall miss more than he.

"I know Willie and you will be deeply grieved. He was indeed the kindest of parents; but I hope you will seek and find your consolation where only it is to be found—in those precious promises which the Gospel gives. A few years of separation will, I trust, bring us all again together in a better world."

The funeral took place on Tuesday the 5th of July. Besides his relatives and more intimate friends specially invited, a large assembly of the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood lined the approach, and respectfully joined the cortege as it proceeded from Crummock to the burying-ground in the old Churchyard of Beith, where his remains

rest beside the kindred dust of those who had loved him dearly when in life.

On the monumental stone built into the eastern wall of the old kirk is cut, in addition to those that had previously been recorded, the following epitaph from the pen of his loving brother, William Dobie of Grangevale :—

"James Dobie, Writer.
Died at Crummock, 29th June 1853,
In the sixty-fifth year of his age.

"Much respected for his business worth and the Christian virtues of his character; he was distinguished for his love of literature and knowledge of antiquities, and was especially endeared to a wide circle of friends by his intelligence, the urbanity of his manners, and a mild and gentle spirit of benevolence which ever animated his mind.

"'Sure the last end
Of the good man is peace. How calm his exit!
Night dews fall not more gently to the ground,
Nor weary, worn-out winds expire so soft!'"

MEMOIR

OF

WILLIAM WILSON OF CRUMMOCK

By JAMES DOBIE

1838

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

SECTION I.

PAGES

Mr Wilson's Parentage and Birth, ... 1–8

SECTION II.

Mr Wilson's Residence in Maryland, and his Return to England, ... 9–23

SECTION III.

Mr Wilson's Settlement in Canada, the Failure of his Prospects, and his Return to Britain, ... 24–52

SECTION IV.

Mr Wilson's going to India, his Residence in Calcutta, Business, and Final Return to Britain, ... 53–98

SECTION V.

Mr Wilson's Settling at Crummock, his Death, and Character, &c., ... 99–164

ADDENDA.

PAGE

POSTSCRIPT TO MEMOIR, ... 167

APPENDIX I.

SIMSON OF WILLOWYARD; AND MOORE OF BRUNTWOOD, . . 170–175

APPENDIX II.

MONTGOMERIE OF BOGSTON, ... 177

APPENDIX III.

SHEDDEN OF MARSHELAND; OF ROUGHWOOD; AND OF MORISHILL, 191, 194, 199

APPENDIX IV.

WILSON OF BOURTREES, ... 217

ERRATA, ... 228

INDEX.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

(IN PLATINOTYPE AND AUTOTYPE, BY MESSRS T. & R. ANNAN & SONS, OF GLASGOW.)

FRONTISPIECE—Mr Dobie and Mr Wilson seated in the dining-room at Crummock. From a painting in cabinet size by William Tannock, of Kilmarnock, *circa* 1849—Mr Wilson's portrait being copied from one taken about 1830 by an itinerant artist, . . *facing title-page*

WILLIAM WILSON, of Crummock. From the portrait painted by Peter Paillou, of London, *circa* 1815, when 61, . . . *facing page* 98

JAMES DOBIE, Writer in Beith. From the portrait by William Tannock, taken in 1823, when 35, ... *facing page* 100

MARGARET SHEDDEN, wife of James Dobie, in her 31st year, and her eldest daughter, Barbara Wilson, when three years of age. From the portrait by William Tannock, taken in 1823, ... *facing page* 100

Note.—Mrs Dobie's dress, which, as originally painted, consisted of a light cream-coloured silk, with pale green stripes, having the high waist of the period, short sleeves, long knitted mitts of white silk, and a very small cap, was unfortunately altered at the request of her grown-up children, and modernised about the year 1837.

ROBERT SHEDDEN, Hon. E.I.C. Service. From the miniature taken in London in 1815, when in his 26th year and Lieutenant in the 8th Madras N.I., ... *facing page* 106

ROBERT WILSON, M.D., Resident Surgeon at Lucknow. From the miniature taken in London after his return from India in 1817, *facing page* 112

ROBERT W. MONTGOMERY OF BOGSTON, when 77. From a copy of the portrait by Sir Henry Raeburn made by George Fillans, of Paisley, in 1843, ... *facing page* 134

JOHN SHEDDEN OF MORISHILL. From the portrait by Peter Paillou, taken *circa* 1815, when 62, ... *facing page* 136

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

WILLOWYARD, bearing W.N.W. From a photograph by Mr Wylie of Beith, taken on 10th October 1894, ... *facing page* 138

MISS JENNY WILSON. From the portrait by James Tannock, of Kilmarnock, taken *circa* 1823, when 63, ... *facing page* 140

TOMBSTONE on Mr Wilson's grave, erected by James Dobie on 12th May 1838. From a photograph taken by Mr Wylie in July 1895, . . 164

JANET SHEDDEN (Mrs Adam). From a photograph, *circa* 1855, *facing page* 204

WILLIAM WILSON DOBIE and JANE ELIZABETH DOBIE. From photographs taken *circa* 1856, ... *facing page* 206

ELIZABETH SHEDDEN (Mrs Barr.) From a photograph, *circa* 1855, „ 208

ALEXANDER SHEDDEN OF MORISHILL. From an enlarged coloured photograph by Fergus, of Largs, *circa* 1855, . . *facing page* 210

MARGARET SHEDDEN (Mrs Dobie). From a photograph taken at Aix-la-Chapelle in 1858, when 66, ... *facing page* 212

JOHN SHEDDEN-DOBIE in his Library. From a photograph taken 24th February 1892, ... *facing page* 214

MRS WILSON OF BOURTREES (Janet Cochran). From the portrait by James Tannock, taken *circa* 1820, when 82, . . . *facing page* 218

MRS DOBIE OF GRANGEVALE (Janet Wilson). From the portrait by William Tannock, taken *circa* 1824, when 62, . . *facing page* 220

WILLIAM DOBIE OF GRANGEVALE, from a photograph by Mr Jamieson, of Beith, taken *circa* 1867, when 77, ... *facing page* 222

WILSON DOBIE-WILSON. From the portrait by James Tannock, taken in 1823, when 20 years of age, ... *facing page* 224

MEMOIR.

SECTION FIRST.

MR WILSON'S PARENTAGE AND BIRTH.

(1703-1772).

JAMES WILSON, merchant in Kilmarnock, on 10th August 1703, married Margaret, daughter of John Findlay, merchant there, by Margaret Smith his wife. Mrs Wilson was aunt to the late Dr Robert Findlay, Professor of Divinity in the College of Glasgow, who died in 1814, and whose descendants are respectable merchants in that city. By her James Wilson had four sons and three daughters:—(1) John, of whom afterwards; (2) James, who married Eupham, daughter of Robert Paterson, writer, Kilmarnock, by whom he had four sons and several daughters.; (3) Robert, who went to America, settled in the State of Maryland, where he married, and where his descendants still remain; (4) William, who married, first, . . . Muir of Barkip, and had two sons, one of whom settled in Canada and the other died in India. He married, secondly, Rebeccah, daughter of John Montgomerie of Barrodger, to which property she succeeded. She had no children, and survived her husband many years. She lived in the Strand of Beith. Her house was called "The Muckle House," it being then the largest mansion in the town. She died in 1814, aged eighty-eight. The daughters

of James Wilson were:—(1) Mary, who was married to William Smith, merchant in Kilmarnock, one of the barons of Prestwick, and had issue, a son, William, who died young, and two daughters,—(1) Mary, who was the second wife of Bailie Hugh Parker of Kilmarnock, from whom descended William Parker, merchant in London, who died in . . . ; after her death Hugh Parker married Janet Lymburner, by whom he had John, residing in Ayr, Janet and Elizabeth, residing in Kilmarnock, and Margaret, married to Dr Ebenezer Smith of Pitcon[1];—(2) Agnes, married to Hugh Galt, merchant in Irvine, but had no issue. The contract of marriage between William Smith and Mary Wilson is preserved. It is dated 21st July 1732. It appears that she had a tocher from her father of 3000 merks, which was in those days a considerable sum.—The other daughters of James Wilson and Margaret Findlay were Jean and Margaret, who both died young. James Wilson, the father, died in 1748.

John, the eldest son of James Wilson, was born 23rd February 1710, and was educated for the Church, but changed his purpose and did not go forward to the ministry. He was a good classical scholar, and regularly used the Greek New Testament in church. He became a merchant in Kilmarnock, and was chosen one of the Bailies of that town. On 17th February 1737, he married Margaret, eldest daughter of Robert Montgomerie of Bogston, by

[1] There seems to have been another daughter . . . married to John Matthie, merchant in Liverpool.

Elizabeth, daughter of William Moor of Bruntwood, in the parish of Galston, by whom he had:—(1) Robert, of whom afterwards; (2) Elizabeth, who was never married; and (3) Mary, who married Dr Robert Borland, of both of whom more particular notice will be taken in the course of this narrative. Margaret Montgomerie died 27th December 1750; and on 28th November 1752, John Wilson married Janet, daughter of William Simson of Willowyard, in the parish of Beith, by Barbara, eldest daughter of William Barclay of Warrix,[1] and sometime Provost of Irvine, by whom he had:—(1) William, the subject of the present memoir; (2) Barbara, who married John Shedden of Morishill; and (3) Janet, who died unmarried.[2] Of the members of these two families notice will be taken in the sequel, but it is necessary to return to the first family of Bailie Wilson, and to introduce to particular notice the family of Montgomerie of Bogston, with whom he connected himself by his first marriage.

Bogston is a small property situated in the barony of Giffin, in the parish of Beith. It consists of 160¼ imperial acres, and its present rental is £180. It was feued out by Hugh, seventh Earl of Eglinton, in 1663, to Robert Montgomerie, with whose descendants it has remained. Robert Montgomerie was the eldest son of Matthew Montgomerie in Braidstane,[3] and it appears from the Records of the Regality of Kilwinning, Vol. I., that on 7th October 1622, John Swan,

[1] See Appendix I. [2] There were also four others who died in childhood.
[3] See Appendix II.

in Mylne of Beith, granted bond for eight score merks to the said Matthew Montgomerie, and to Robert Montgomerie in Bogston, his son. This shows that the Montgomeries occupied Bogston sometime prior to the date of the feu. They have always been reputed collateral descendants of the Montgomeries of Braidstane and of Giffin, who were branches of the noble family of Eglinton, and as such have been recognised by the family. Several of them have held situations of trust and responsibility under the Earls of Eglinton. The first Robert Montgomerie of Bogston was Baron Bailie over the Lordship of Giffin, which then comprehended more than one-half of the parish, and there is evidence still preserved of the accuracy with which the Courts were held at the Manor-place. He was married, first, to Ann, eldest daughter of John Harvie of Braidlie, in the parish of Dalry, a family of respectable antiquity, and whose armorial bearings are on record as given by Nisbet. Robert Montgomerie seems to have been a person of great wealth, as the properties he settled on his several sons would now be of considerable value. He was married four times, but for our present purpose it is not necessary to specify all his descendants. He settled his property of Bogston on his eldest son, Matthew, who, in 1682, married Janet, daughter of William Moor of Bruntwood. He predeceased his father and his wife, having died at the early age of twenty-seven. He left a son, Robert, and a daughter, Margaret, who was married to John Shedden of Marsheland, grandfather of the late Mr Shedden of Morishill. The son,

Robert, was twice married:—first, to Elizabeth, daughter of his uncle, William Moor of Bruntwood; and, secondly, to Mrs Jean Welsh. Of this last marriage there was no issue, but of the first there were eighteen children, all of whom died unmarried, excepting three daughters—Margaret, the eldest, who was married to Bailie John Wilson, as before-mentioned; Elizabeth, the second, was married to John Drummond, General Supervisor of Excise (the father of Robert and John of facetious memory); and Susannah, remarkable for her beauty, who married Robert Montgomerie of Craighouse. Robert Montgomerie, the father of these three ladies, was a man of high respectability of character. He was factor on the estates of Eglinton, Baron Bailie of Giffin, and a person to whom the public business of the parish was almost entirely committed. He was an elder in the church, and attentive to his religious duties. He was a tall, handsome man, wore a curled black wig and large ruffles at his wrists, as was fashionable in his day. He was much satisfied with the marriage of his eldest daughter to Bailie Wilson, who was a man of respectable character and of good fortune; and when their eldest son, Robert, was able to visit him at Bogston, he took pleasure in his company. Bogston had been bereaved of fifteen children, and he looked to the issue of his daughter (Mrs Wilson) to supply the place of those he had lost. He soon fixed on Robert, her first born, to be his heir and successor in his small paternal estate. When Robert was at Bogston the old gentleman took him to visit their friends. On one

occasion they went into Stirlingshire on a visit to two ladies. As they rode up the High Street of Glasgow, Bogston was a little in advance of his young attendant, and turning quickly round he called out, "What's that on your hat, Rabby"? The hat was immediately doffed to see what had caused the remark. "Ay," said the old gentleman, laughing, "there's naething wrang, only ye hae ta'en aff your hat to the gallows." They were passing the place of execution at the time, which was then near the head of High Street. When they got to their destination they found agreeable domestic society. The ladies were keen Jacobites, and the first toast after dinner was "The Prince." In the evening one of the ladies read a tragedy in MS., which was founded on the adventures and sufferings of the Chevalier. It made a strong impression on the youthful auditor, who distinctly remembered part of the dialogue, and that the title of one of the scenes was "The Prince in a Wood." After Robert grew up his grandfather and he paid a visit to their relative Mr M'Fadyen, at Renfrew, where they were entertained by the Magistrates, and both admitted burgesses of that ancient burgh.

Robert, having received a good mercantile education, resolved to go out to America as a merchant, and accordingly, in 1757, he arrived in Virginia and settled at Alexandria, where he remained for nine years. His friends being anxious for his return, as his grandfather was now far advanced in years, he resolved to wind up his business and return to Scotland. He wrote his grandfather regularly, and sent

him and his father presents of rum and sweetmeats. In 1765 he was made aware of the old gentleman's declining health, and was anxious to reach Scotland; but it was in the spring of the following year ere he could arrange his affairs to accomplish this, and meanwhile his grandfather had been gathered to his fathers. By his deed of settlement his estate of Bogston was conveyed to his grandson under the condition of his assuming the name of Montgomerie, which he accordingly did,[1] and was served heir of provision and took possession in 1766. During his long subsequent enjoyment of the property he was uniformly styled "Bogston," a custom then more prevalent than at the present day. As we will have occasion often to introduce him in course of this narrative, we intend to speak of him generally under this cognomen.

In 1770 (four years after Bogston's return from America), Bailie Wilson died suddenly, Mrs Janet Simson, his second wife, having predeceased him about a year. Their children, being thus deprived of both parents, naturally looked to Mr Montgomery, their paternal brother, as their head, and he proved himself worthy of their confidence. He lost no time in winding up his father's affairs, and realising his funds for the family's behoof. He soon afterwards removed to Bogston, taking his sisters to live in family with him.

The only son of Bailie Wilson's second marriage was William, and it became necessary for him to fix on a profession, and to push his own way through the world. He

[1] Writing the name with "y," instead of "ie."

was born at Kilmarnock on 22nd June 1754, and was educated in the usual branches to qualify him for a mercantile life. In his early years he evinced a remarkable docility and equanimity of temper and benevolence of feeling towards all the members of his father's family, and to his acquaintances and friends. He was greatly attached to his sisters, and the sequel will show how this was proved. His paternal uncle, James Wilson, merchant in Kilmarnock, seems to have been a man of a speculative turn. He carried on an extensive trade with America, and as his sons grew up he took them into business, and under the firms of "James Wilson & Sons" and "James Wilson & Son" had establishments in Scotland, England, and America. They had an extensive store at Georgetown in Maryland, and it was of great consequence for them to have confidential, trustworthy persons in that establishment. As soon as William Wilson was considered fit for conducting any department, he was engaged to go out to Maryland in their employment. In the summer of 1772, he took leave of his affectionate family and left Scotland to embark in the wide world, and to partake of its cares, crosses, and disappointments.

> Ah! world unknown! how charming is thy view,
> Thy pleasures many, and each pleasure new.
> Ah! world experienced.[1]

[1] Crabbe, "The Borough Schoo's."

SECTION SECOND.

MR WILSON'S RESIDENCE IN MARYLAND, AND HIS RETURN TO ENGLAND.

(1772-1778).

Mr Wilson arrived in Virginia on 22nd September 1772, after a passage of eight weeks, and forthwith proceeded to Georgetown, from which he wrote his brother on 28th September. He immediately entered upon duty in the store of his employers. Georgetown, situated on the river Potomac, and about 130 miles south-west of Philadelphia, was then a rising town and assuming some degree of importance. It was distant about thirty miles from Annapolis, at that time the seat of the Government of the Province of Maryland.[1] In a letter to Mr Montgomery, dated 20th June 1773, he acknowledged receipt of the intelligence of the death of his youngest sister, Jeanie, who died of small-pox after twelve days' severe suffering. He expresses himself gratified at hearing of the progress which his sisters, Barbara and Janet, were making in their education, and adds:—"I have always found Mr Stewart[2] a good master

[1] "Georgetown, though still a separate city, might now be called a suburb of Washington, there being an almost unbroken line of houses connecting the two." —Buckingham's *America*, Vol. I., Cap. xix.

[2] Adam Steuart, father of Mr William Steuart of Glenormiston. See Post-script to Memoir—Letter and Memoranda by Mr David Hunter, of Calcutta and London.

yet, and I daresay he will have no occasion to complain of me, as I shall always do my duty as well as I can." In answer to this Mr Montgomery wrote him on 8th September —"I am glad to be informed of the good footing you are on with Mr Stewart. I daresay I need not repeat what I told you before you went from this, that you are greatly dependant on the character you establish to yourself while an assistant, as it is that alone will determine your present employers, or any other company, to employ you as a supercargo. The examples that you see are daily making of factors, both in Virginia and Maryland, by turning them out or superseding them, will satisfy you that it is not now so easy to get a factorship as heretofore. The Glasgow merchants will be fully informed of a young man's character before they employ him, and they will not be satisfied with his having abilities, but they must also know him to be sober, diligent, and attentive."

About this period the affairs of America become interesting, as the seeds were sowing which, on their maturity, brought round the separation of this great colony from the Mother Country. For our present purpose it may be sufficient to allude in a general manner to the political questions then beginning to be seriously agitated.

At the conclusion of the war between France and Great Britain in 1763, the American Colonies were in a state of great prosperity, and were likely to continue progressively to advance in power and importance, and thus increase the influence of England. This was viewed by France with great suspicion, and it is well known that at Paris a scheme

was formed to disunite the Colonies from the Mother Country. Secret emissaries were employed to sow discord among the Colonists, and not without success, it being proverbially easy to make people believe themselves oppressed. It was the method adopted by the first deceiver to make Eve think herself unfairly deprived of power, and that there was nothing to be apprehended by resisting its arbitrary restrictions. So it was in America. They soon began to think themselves ill-governed by England, and that they were entitled to far more respect than she seemed disposed to yield. Every legislative measure was viewed with distrust and watched with suspicion. In 1764 an Act of the British Parliament was passed, imposing a heavy duty on articles imported into America from such of the West India Islands as did not belong to Britain. These duties were ordered to be paid into exchequer in specie; and another Act passed restraining the currency of paper money among the Colonies themselves. These laws were received with great reluctance and were violently remonstrated against, but they were not softened. A deaf ear was turned to the complaints, and the consequence followed that the clamour increased and that the cause of the Americans gained ground. In retaliation the Colonists resolved that they would not import articles of British manufacture, but would to the utmost encourage the manufacturing of similar articles among themselves. This roused the British merchants, who felt the loss of the trade with the Colonies, and they united in the complaints and remonstrances to Government. These were not listened to, and the Govern-

ment proceeded to that most injudicious measure, the imposing of stamp duties throughout the American Continent. The reason assigned for this obnoxious tax was the raising of funds necessary to provide for the defence of the Colonies against a foreign enemy. This was repelled as "frivolous and vexatious." The Colonists maintained that they were sufficiently able to defend themselves, and at last they boldly denied the right of the British Parliament to impose any taxes on them without their own consent. Then arose the political war-cry that "taxation without representation is tyranny," a maxim which will be repeated in many countries for many future ages. The Stamp Act was received in America with great and almost universal indignation. At Boston unequivocal marks of popular fury were shown. The Stamps were seized and burned, the collectors of the tax compelled to resign their office, and such of the Americans as took part with the Government in this measure had their houses plundered and destroyed.

Mr Montgomery was resident at Alexandria while these obnoxious measures were carrying on. On 24th April 1765, he wrote his father as follows:—"The only news you can learn from this is that the taxes the British Parliament are imposing on the Colonies, and the restrictions they are laying their trade under, has raised a universal spirit of discontent, clamour, and disaffection among the people. It is lucky for the Mother Country that the Colonies are not able to shake off her yoke." On 14th August, in the same year, he wrote to his cousin, James Wilson:—"We have a

most shocking prospect before us when we consider that we are to have no Courts after the 1st of November next. Our Magistrates are all determined not to sit after that time unless the Stamp Law is repealed, and we will not have it in our power to enforce the payment of our debts unless the Parliament takes our case into their consideration." On 21st September he wrote to his father:—"News I have none, only all British America is in a ferment, occasioned by the imposition of a Stamp duty by the British Parliament, which is to take place the 1st of November next. The officers appointed for the different districts are mostly natives of America, and the mob, not uncountenanced by some of the better sort, are in every place burning them in effigy, pulling down their dwelling-houses and those erected for Stamp offices, and have obliged some of the officers to resign their commissions." On 5th December he wrote his cousin, thus describing the state of the country:—"Since the 1st of November the Courts of Justice have been shut up, and if the Stamp Law is not repealed, God knows when they will be opened. The prospect we have before us is dreadful. Our debtors whom we had sued say they will pay us when we get a judgment. The others pack up their goods and run away before our face, and it is not in our power to hinder them, because for want of stamped paper neither attachments can be obtained, bond, penal note, mortgage, bill of sale, or deeds taken, nor can a writ or any other legal process be issued. In short, we are in very great confusion. At King and Queen Court the Scots merchants

were attacked by the mob and, driven out of the courtyard, obliged to take their horses and ride for their lives. At Northumberland the same scene was acted, and a poor fellow of this town, who was sent up express to Frederick County, was accused by some drunken fellows of having taken a £3 bill, and without any ceremony was hanged. The enmity of the people against those of our country proceeds from their hatred of Lord Bute, who, they say, though retired from business, still rules the roast, and had a principal hand in procuring this grievous Stamp Law to be enacted."

It has been well remarked that nations are slowly wise and meanly just.[1] The British Parliament, after witnessing their authority thus rejected and their dignity lowered, repealed the obnoxious Stamp Law, but in the preamble of the repealing statute continued to assert their undoubted right to impose taxes on the Colonies.

Soon after this a duty was imposed upon all tea, paper, and glass imported into America. This was received with still greater indignation than the Stamp Law, and at Boston the people broke out into open tumult. Troops were called in by the Governor, and the people formed an Assembly called a Convention for protecting their rights:—names and proceedings, the undoubted forerunners of greater events. All the duties but that on tea were repealed. This concession was unavailing. The tax was resisted and public resolutions passed by the new Assembly against the power

[1] See nations slowly wise, and meanly just,
To buried merit raise the tardy bust.—JOHNSON.

of Britain to impose on the Colonists any taxes whatever. In 1773, when tea was brought into the harbour at Boston, the ship containing it was boarded and 342 chests of the taxed commodity thrown into the sea. This happened after Mr Wilson had arrived in the country, and, of course, some years after his brother had returned to Scotland. In the beginning of 1774 he wrote his brother—"There is nothing at all in the papers just now but what relates to the adventure of the tea, which the Pennsylvanians seem resolved to leave over drinking unless the duty is taken off it."

As a punishment on the inhabitants of Boston for their recent outrages, the Parliament passed an Act imposing a fine on the town equal to the value of the tea destroyed, and shutting up the port by armed vessels until the refractory spirit of the people should be subdued. This measure was, of course, loudly complained of by the Americans, but the English Government, in its plenitude of power, hoped that the opposition would be overcome, and that the Colonists would in due time sink into quiescent submission to the laws. In this they were sadly mistaken. The die was cast, and no power on earth could again recall it. The Port Bill was received with greater indignation than any of the previous measures, and at last a Congress of delegates from the several States, consisting of fifty-one persons, met at Philadelphia in September 1774, to deliberate on public affairs. They published a Declaration of their rights. They admitted the power of the British Government to regulate their commerce so as to secure to the parent State the benefit of their trade,

but they denied the right to impose taxes upon them for raising revenue without their own consent. They reprobated the late Acts of the British Parliament, and declared in favour of non-importation of British goods until the obnoxious duties should be repealed. In short, the stand now made was the evident result of a determination to shake themselves free from the British Government altogether.

On 10th June 1774, Mr Wilson writes to his brother—"The people seem all resolved to enter into an association neither to export nor import any goods until Boston Port is opened." This was prior to the meeting of the Congress. On 10th December he writes:—"You will no doubt, long before this reaches you, have seen the resolves of the American Congress. All the Colonies are mustering men to go to the assistance of Boston in case there should be occasion for them. Balls and every kind of public diversion are put a stop to. Coarse goods begin to turn very scarce. Unless the American grievances are redressed before next fall, I suppose you will hear of us all turning soldiers."

In the spring of 1775 a change took place in the management of the store in which Mr Wilson was employed. Mr Stewart resigned his charge and Mr John Dunlop was appointed. Mr Montgomery, on 20th March 1775, wrote Mr Wilson:—"I understand Mr Stewart has resigned and Mr John Dunlop succeeds him in the management of your store. Though he is a young man I beg you will be attentive to his orders, and by your care, diligence, and application to business endeavour to recommend yourself to

him. This has been a favourable year for your employers, and if things were settled in the country, this success may probably induce them to extend their business, in which case Mr Dunlop's favourable report of you may be the means of procuring you the management of a store, to the effecting of which my little interest on this side shall not be wanting; but whatever wish the Company may have to extend their business, they dare not venture upon new settlements while the present disputes between Great Britain and America subsist. That a period may be put to them is my daily prayer, but I doubt a period must first be put to the existence of that curse of our country, Lord Bute, and his tool, Lord North."

On 8th April, Mr Wilson writes:—"It is very dull times here at present, the stores being mostly empty of coarse goods, which is what the planters chiefly want, and what there is of them is all packed up till market time. Everybody is waiting here with impatience till they hear what steps the Parliament is taking. If matters are not amicably settled betwixt Great Britain and this country soon, there will be very little business done here, especially if the people adhere so strictly to the resolves of the Congress as they have done. The people in Virginia, at their last Provincial Congress, have put a stop to all Courts of Justice."

At last open hostilities broke out between the Colonies and Great Britain. The sound of the first gun on the morning of a battle is a fearful note. It is a token of death, pains, wounds, sorrow, and tears; and no one can calculate the extent of the misery to be inflicted on the sufferers, and

on the many innocent persons connected with those involved in the conflict. The commencement of hostilities in America was the prelude of a long protracted warfare, which, as might easily have been foretold, ended in a complete separation of the Colonies from Great Britain, and thus laid the foundation of a great empire which must soon sway the destinies of the world. This event is thus referred to by Mr Wilson in a letter to his brother, dated 18th May 1775:—"You will no doubt, long before this reaches you, have heard of the engagement which happened betwixt the King's troops and the Provincials near Boston. We have had so many different accounts of the engagement here that we are at a loss to know the true one. I have enclosed you an extract of a letter from Boston, which appears to be the most exact account of any we have yet seen, though Governor Gage's is much more in favour of the regulars. The Virginians seem very much displeased with Governor Dunmore at present. Some time ago he removed the powder out of the Magazine at Williamsburgh in the night, and put it on board the Fowey man-of-war lying in James River. A few days after that he put all his family on board, and it is reported that he has fortified himself in the Palace, along with the captain of the man-of-war, where he has cut port-holes through the walls, and keeps a constant guard of forty marines. The people are very strict here since the late engagement. Every person that is above sixteen years of age is obliged to appear under arms twice every week, or be deemed enemies to the country and treated accordingly.

You will receive by Mr Stewart a few newspapers, which I imagine will be the last I can get sent you, for it is thought by most people here that the exportation from this country will be stopped before the Congress, which is now sitting, breaks up." The extract of the letter from Boston, referred to by Mr Wilson, was of the following tenor:—"Boston, 22nd April 1775.—On Tuesday night, about eleven o'clock, the Grenadiers and Light Infantry of all the regulars, about 800 men, under the command of Colonel Smith, marched out to destroy some magazines at Concord, about twenty miles distant. At Lexington they met with a party of about thirty or forty men exercising, who were ordered by Major Pitcairn (a worthy man), who had the command of the Light Infantry, to disperse, and after some little dispute they were going off, when a party of the Light Infantry shouted, ran up to them, fired, and killed eight on the spot without any order from their Commander. Various are the accounts of this unhappy affair. The Major says that one gun was fired after they shouted and ran up to them, but this, it is observed, is not probable, for no man could be so foolish as to fire on a body of troops in an open plain. They immediately marched on to Concord. After doing some trifling mischief they were about turning, when a number of our people had assembled with their arms, and a smart skirmish ensued, in which the regulars had the worst of it. They retreated and were closely followed for near twenty miles. Earl Percy, at the head of a brigade of about 1000 men, set out at nine o'clock on Wednesday morning and joined the detachment under

Colonel Smith in the very nick of time, for his soldiers had not more than two rounds left, and the officers acknowledge had he been half an hour later they must have surrendered, or been entirely cut off. They returned to Charlestown, where the wounded were treated with the greatest humanity. The number of killed and wounded on both sides is so differently related that I cannot come at the truth. You may say about 70 or 80 killed and 120 or 130 wounded on the side of the regulars. Among the former you may reckon one officer; among the latter, about fourteen officers, two dangerously, and about half that number of Provincials. Many women and children were killed by the King's troops firing into houses, from whence they were fired upon. We have been closely besieged ever since. No provision has been brought to market these five days, which has reduced us to allowance, as it came so sudden on us. Sunday, 23rd.—Since writing the above I have received a letter from my brother, who was led by his curiosity to become a dangerous spectator of this engagement. He says that at no time were the regulars engaged by an equal number of men, and that the Provincials followed with great spirit. I have obtained the hospital surgeon's list of the wounded, and the returns of the General, viz.:—1 officer killed (Lieut. Knight), 14 wounded. 62 privates killed and missing; wounded—21 of the 4th regiment, 16 of the 5th, 12 of the 10th, 2 of the 18th, 23 of the 23rd, 11 of the 38th, 2 of the 52nd, 3 of the 43rd, 13 of the 47th, 2 of the 59th—in all 105, only 12 dangerously. You will observe there is no account of the Marines,

who suffered more than any regiment. Yesterday and to-day the Governor and the gentlemen of the town have been in treaty to open a communication between the town and country, which is agreed to on the following terms:— The inhabitants to deliver up their arms to the select men, and the Governor promises to protect the lives and estates of those who choose to stay, and gives leave to those who choose to leave the town and go where they please, and the Admiral's boats are to assist to convey them and their effects to any part of the harbour if they choose to go by water. We are closely and regularly besieged here by 20,000 men, and the event I am afraid to think of. An attack upon the fortifications is expected, which must be very bloody."

On 29th September of this year (1775), Mr Wilson writes his brother:—"I am sincerely obliged to you for the concern you take in having me settled in some way of business. I shall always be attentive and diligent in whatever capacity my employers shall have occasion for me, but my inability of executing the trust reposed in a factor will keep me, for some time at least, in the station I am in, as I am at present sensible that I am not capable of taking upon me the management of a store. You will receive by Mr Smith a few newspapers. In the papers of the latest date you will see the Association of the People of this Province, which is to be laid before us on Monday next. It will go very much against me to sign it, but I must do it, or it will be impossible to live in the Province. That a period may be put to these disturbances between Great Britain and the Colonies is my

most sincere wish. The enrolment which we are all called on to sign, not being in the last papers, I have enclosed you a copy." It is as follows:—"We, whose names are subscribed, do hereby enrol ourselves into a Company of Militia, agreeable to the resolution of the Provincial Convention held at Annapolis, the 26th July 1775, and we do promise and engage that we will respectively march to such places within this Province, and at such times as we shall be commanded by the Convention or the Council of Safety for this Province, or by our officers, in pursuance of the orders of the said Convention or Council, and there, with our whole power, fight against whomsoever we shall be commanded by such authority as aforesaid."

In the meantime, the war was carried on betwixt the Colonies and the Mother Country with great vigour, and with doubtful success. Sometimes Washington and the Americans had the victory; at others they were defeated. It was not to be doubted that all the resident English would be called on to take a part in the proceedings, and that those who declared for the Mother Country would be held in great detestation by the Americans. Mr Wilson was strongly attached to the cause of his country, and no power on earth could make him swerve from what he considered his duty, either public or private. There is no evidence in his correspondence that he joined the Militia, but at length he was drawn to be a common soldier, and ordered to march with the American forces to fight against the English troops.[1]

[1] See Postscript at end of Memoir.

Prior to this all those connected with the store had fled. He was left alone, and had the sole charge of the valuable property of his employers. Rather than desert his duty, and leave this property at the mercy of the mob, he resolved to go to Annapolis and beg leave from the Governor to remain at the store to protect it, as being the only person there in the employment of the owners. The Governor could give him no protection, and Mr Wilson had no alternative. He must either go as a common soldier to endure the fatigues of a campaign against his countrymen, or leave the place. He chose the latter course, and in the night time got a man to paddle him forty or fifty miles down the Potomac, and put him aboard a British ship. This he accomplished with great difficulty. He fled with nothing but the clothes he had on his back. The man who aided him in his escape was seized on his return and imprisoned. The store and its valuable contents were left at the mercy of the enemy. About this time many hundreds of Englishmen were ruined in their fortunes, being obliged to leave all and escape from the horrors of this fearful war. Mr Wilson found protection from the captain of the ship, who carried him to New York, from which he took an early opportunity of sailing for England, where he arrived in 1778.

Ah, War! thou pest of human kind,
What mis'ry from thee flows;
How dreadful to each feeling mind
Thy train of countless woes.

SECTION THIRD.

MR WILSON'S SETTLEMENT IN CANADA, THE FAILURE OF HIS PROSPECTS, AND HIS RETURN TO BRITAIN.

(1778-1785).

Soon after Mr Wilson's arrival in England he hastened home, where he was received with great kindness and affection. His brother, Mr Montgomery, was now settled at Bogston, where he had built a plain, substantial house, and was occupied in enclosing and improving his lands. His sisters, Elizabeth and Mary of his father's first marriage, and Barbara and Janet of the second, resided with him, and among them and the friends of the family Mr Wilson spent some time very happily. It was, however, necessary for him to return to business; and it having been proposed by his uncle, Mr James Wilson, that he and his sons on the one part, and Mr Wilson on the other, should enter into a copartnery and form an establishment in Canada, the negotiations for this business were entered upon and occupied some time.

In March 1779, Mr Wilson went to London, and on 29th of that month entered into a formal contract with his friends, the substance of which was that Mr Wilson was to go out to Canada and establish a house at Quebec, under the firm of William Wilson, Jun., & Co. The capital was to be

£2000, one-half to be advanced by each party. The contract was to commence on 1st May 1780, and to continue for seven years; Mr Wilson to have his bed, board, and lodging at the Company's expense, and for the first three years to have a salary of £60 yearly, to be increased to £80 for the remaining four years. The business in Great Britain to be managed by James Wilson & Sons, who were to have a commission of five per cent. upon all goods shipped for the concern at Quebec, excepting on such as might be furnished by themselves, on which no commission was to be charged. On the same day (29th March) Mr Wilson sent a copy of the contract to his brother, and wrote as follows:—"You will observe that the copartnership does not commence till the 1st of May 1780. The goods I carry out now are on account of the same concern, but I am to bear my own expense till that time, and to have five per cent. commission for disposing of them. Mr William Wilson tells me he has spoken to several of the Quebec merchants, who all think the business I intend carrying on there will answer very well." Alluding to his enjoyments in London, he says:—"I have now seen the greatest part of what I wanted to see in this City, and I think in two or three days' time, which I hope will be the most we will have to stay, I shall be heartily tired of it. I was at the Chapel Royal yesterday, where I had a good view of His Majesty, and heard sermon preached by the Archbishop of York. There is nothing new here. The people are all in high spirits, and expect accounts of Charleston being in our possession every day."

This alludes to the expedition undertaken by the British against Georgia and Carolina, where the English party had been strongest, and where it was expected an impression would have been made of material importance to the British cause. The expedition was so far successful. Charleston, after a protracted siege, surrendered to Sir Henry Clinton, the British Commander, and a considerable number of the inhabitants solicited to be restored to the character and condition of British subjects ;—but this had no ulterior effect on the great question at issue between the two countries.

Mr Wilson sailed for Canada in the ship *Betty*. There were 150 ships bound to New York and Quebec, under convoy of 10 sail of the line and 4 frigates. As they were about to sail, intelligence was received that 11 sail of the line of the French fleet had gone out from Brest, and an addition to the English convoy of 3 ships of the line and 2 frigates was procured. The last paragraph of a letter written by Mr Wilson on board the *Betty* is :—"The pilot whom I send this by is just going ashore.—Adieu." As the fleet sailed from St Helens, and before they had lost sight of the Isle of Wight, they met a sloop going from Jersey to Portsmouth with dispatches from the Governor of that island to Lord Weymouth, intimating that the French had attempted to land a body of troops there under cover of five men-of-war. The Admiral stood immediately over upon the French coast, and made a signal for all the masters of vessels to come on board of his ship. He gave orders that the merchantmen should

proceed to Torbay, and that the ships of war and transports should go with him to Jersey. This was done, but the French had been driven off the island before the fleet got up, so they had no opportunity of displaying their valour, which with British seamen is ever prompt. This was the first attempt made by the French to conquer Jersey, which had long been an object of their desire. They had met with a vigorous resistance from the militia of the island, aided by some regular troops, and were obliged to retire without having landed a single individual. During this delay the wind changed, and the fleet was detained for fourteen days. At length a favourable breeze sprang up, and away went the merry ships across "the wide Atlantic sea."

The passage was tedious. The *Betty* sailed from Torbay on 23rd May, and did not reach Quebec till the 16th of August. The fleet cruised all over the ocean. Admiral Arbuthnot convoyed them as far southward as the Western Isles, and after parting from him they were beset by contrary winds. They encountered no enemy, and arrived in safety at Quebec. On 12th September Mr Wilson wrote his brother with this intelligence, and added:—"I am afraid what goods I brought out with me will come to a very poor market. The fleet having all arrived safe (except one ship), and coming in all at once, has filled this place so full that most kinds of goods are selling under what they cost. That, together with my ignorance of the French language, make the place very disagreeable to me at present. However,

I must have a little patience, and am in hopes, in course of the winter, to learn as much of the language as will enable me to do business with the inhabitants next year."

On 1st November he writes that business was very dull, that he had sold about a third of the goods he had brought out at little more than they had cost, and wished he had the remainder off on the same terms. He adds:—"I can scarcely be a judge yet how far a retail store will answer here. William Wilson thinks it will do very well. Indeed, I am of opinion it will answer better than any other line I could follow in this place, and have ordered an assortment of goods to be out here in the spring for that purpose. I intend going to the country in a few weeks, and shall stay there during the winter to learn French, as there is no doing anything here without it."

On further consideration it was resolved to abandon the idea of establishing a retail store. So many had recently been commenced that the field was overstocked, and there was no prospect of succeeding. Mr Wilson intimated this in a letter to Mr Montgomery of 28th May 1780, and said:—"I have not fixed upon any other plan yet, and shall remain without fixing upon any until some vessels arrive. Indeed, every branch of business is so much overdone here at present that I am quite at a loss what to do. I assure you I am not at all pleased with my present situation. I have not sold one-half of the goods I brought out with me, although every article I had, except shoes, were reckoned ready money articles, and never used to lye upon

hand with any person before last year. The only satisfaction I have is, that everybody else is in the same situation, which, by the by, is but poor comfort. The principal reason given for trade being so dull here this year is the scarcity of grain in the country, the inhabitants being obliged to purchase bread for their families instead of laying their money out upon goods. Many a poor family has been for weeks together without a mouthful of bread. I went into the country (about thirty miles below this) early in December, and only returned here about three weeks ago. I had the good fortune to get into a very genteel and agreeable family. There were two agreeable young ladies in it, who were with us all the winter, except about six weeks which they were in town attending the Assemblies. They were so kind when in the country as to teach me to read French, and the old people treated me rather as one of their own children than as a stranger. You will think from all these advantages that I must be quite perfect in the language, but, although I have gained a little of it, it is not near so much as I ought to have done from the opportunity I had. I assure you I passed the time so agreeably in the winter that I quitted these good people with regret."

On 15th September he writes:—"I am now employed in disposing of the goods that came out to me this year, which is but a disagreeable job, as none of them will sell for a profit, owing to the amazing high charges upon them. However, I am in hopes the loss will not be great, as a

good many of the London fleet have been taken, and goods begin to be scarce. Mr William Wilson intends going home this fall. He expected Mr Alexander Campbell from New York to take the management of the business here. Should Mr Campbell arrive, I believe I shall go up to Montreal; if not, I shall remain here. However, I shall let you know by Mr William Wilson how we have arranged matters. We have no news here from the other parts of America that can be depended upon. A number of men have been employed all this summer in repairing the fortifications and erecting new works, so that, should the French pay us a visit, they will find this place prepared to receive them."

A new arrangement as to business having taken place, Mr Wilson announced it to his brother in the following terms:—"24th October 1780.—Mr Alexander Campbell arrived here about a month ago from Boston, and he and I have entered into an agreement with Mr William Wilson to be each of us one-sixth concerned, and Messrs James Wilson & Sons four-sixths, in a business to be carried on in this province under the firm of Alexander Campbell & Co., for six years. Mr Campbell is to manage the business in Quebec, and it is proposed that I go to Montreal in the spring to take the management of a branch of the business there, so that your letters in future may be directed to me at Montreal to the care of Mr Campbell. My concern with Messrs J. Wilson & Sons has hitherto rather proved a losing one. However, I flatter myself this will turn out more beneficial to all concerned."

In a letter of 18th November the same intelligence is repeated. Mr Wilson writes in high spirits, and hopes that the new concern will do well. It appeared that their business was to be extensive in West Indian commodities, and that it was fixed that Mr Wilson was to go to Montreal in the spring. Mr Montgomery, on 12th March 1781, acknowledged receipt of this letter, and said:—"I am better pleased with your new contract with Messrs Wilson than I was with the first, and I hope you will be successful."

About this time Mr Cumberland Wilson, one of the sons of James Wilson, and cousin-german of Mr Montgomery and of Mr Wilson, was married to a Miss Allan of Glasgow. His brother William, having arrived in England from Canada, soon afterwards came to Scotland, and paid a visit at Bogston. He communicated to Mr Montgomery a circumstance in Mr Wilson's history which caused great uneasiness to his family and friends. This was no other than that he had formed an attachment to a young lady at Quebec—a Miss Duniere, a Roman Catholic—and that there was every reason to believe that it would end in marriage, and that without much delay. As this love affair places Mr Wilson's character before us in a new light, and as it called forth a display of Mr Montgomery's prudence and firmness, it is better to let the parties speak for themselves. Those who know Mr Wilson can entertain no doubt of the enviable purity of his passion, and that, in the character of husband and father, he would have exemplified in a remarkable manner the domestic virtues. Yet the connec-

tion under his circumstances at the time would have been most imprudent, and, as events turned out, the propriety of the advice, which Mr Montgomery from equally pure motives so successfully tendered him, became manifest.

On 30th June 1781, Mr Wilson writes from Quebec:—"I have not yet been at Montreal, but propose going up in a few days, and shall write you from thence this summer how our business is likely to turn out. My appointment is £100 Stg. a-year, which sounds pretty well. It will go but a little way in this country, however, at present; not near so far as one-half of that sum either in Scotland or Virginia. I remained in town all last winter, and such a continued scene of dissipation I never saw, nor do I believe it is to be equalled in any other country in the world. I would not spend such another winter as the last upon almost any consideration. No kind of business was to be done from the month of November till May, and a continual round of feasting and drinking during all that time.

"My dear brother, I dare say you would scarcely suspect me to be so deeply in love as not to be able to get the better of my passion. That, however, is the case, and I make no doubt but you will think it a very ridiculous and foolish affair. It is now more than twelve months since Miss Duniere first attracted my particular attention. I have done everything in my power to get the better of my passion, as the situation I am in would scarcely admit of getting married, but all to no purpose, for my affection towards the young lady is now stronger than ever. She

is of a genteel family that had considerable property destroyed when the English took possession of this place. They afterwards retired to the country, where they have brought up a large family in a genteel manner (not less than twenty-two children). As she cannot, therefore, be expected to have any fortune, you and my other friends, I make no doubt, will think me very imprudent should I enter into any matrimonial engagement in my present situation:—But, my dear sir, what can I do? I am certain I cannot pay that attention to business which I ought unless I have a prospect of making Miss Duniere mine. Be not, therefore, surprised if you should hear that we are as much one flesh as the priest can make us before the end of this year. I hope no connection I may form in this country will ever wean from me the affections of my brother and sisters. If it does, I shall certainly be unhappy. Make my kind compliments to all friends, and believe me to be, ever your affectionate brother, WILLIAM WILSON, Junr."

On 15th October he writes from Montreal, to which place he had gone:—"I have got acquainted with a number of worthy families, which makes the place very agreeable. I promised to inform you how our business was likely to turn out. Everything that was shipped on our account we have been unfortunate enough to have had taken. It was the more so as the cargoes, had they arrived, would have sold uncommonly well; but we must content ourselves with the hopes of better fortune another year. We have, how-

ever, had three small vessels upon consignment, which prevents our being quite idle, and will help to defray charges. Provided I can rub through the world, my dear sir, without getting in debt and distressing my friends, my not being able to make a fortune will never make me uneasy. At the same time, I would try every honest means to make myself independent of the world.

"I informed you in my last of my particular affection for Miss Duniere, which still continues, and will, I am certain, for life. I have long attempted in vain to get the better of it, and should not have doubted of success had the beauties of her person been the only object of my affection, but that not being the case, I shall no longer attempt it. I need not, therefore, tell you that it is my utmost wish and desire to make her mine for better for worse."

Before the letter of 30th June had reached its destination Mr Montgomery, as already noticed, had been informed of Mr Wilson's attachment to Miss Duniere. He disapproved of it. He was not a person to do this but from the most sincere regard for Mr Wilson's happiness; but in the precarious situation of trade, and the unsettled state of public affairs, he looked upon it as great imprudence in Mr Wilson at that time to involve himself in matrimony. He lost no time in addressing his brother on this interesting subject in the following letter:—"30th July 1781.—Messrs James and William Wilson paid me a visit a few days ago, when Mr William showed me a letter he had from you,

dated in June. It gave me pleasure to learn you were well, but a paragraph towards the end of your letter alarmed me a good deal. You there write rather seriously of an attachment to a young lady. I hope you have no matrimonial intentions. I am satisfied that a connection of that kind, unless the lady brought you a fortune, would be your ruin. I easily perceive that it would give much offence to your partners here, and, indeed, nobody that wishes you well would like to see it take place. I do not wonder that, living a considerable time in the same house with an agreeable girl, you should conceive a liking for each other, and this might be a very good foundation for a marriage were you endowed with the goods of fortune; but believe me that, without a suitable portion of the good things of this life, no marriage can be happy. The greatness of affection in that case would only serve to increase your misery. Conceive to yourself the partner of your heart with the pledges of your love destitute of the comforts, perhaps of the necessaries, of life, and the picture must operate as a dissuasive to matrimony, until Fortune, by her smiles, indicates a more proper time. Only think of your Uncle Robert in Maryland, and I need say no more.

"When I write in this strain do not think it is because I want you to follow my example. No, nothing would give me greater pleasure than to see you comfortably settled and in easy circumstances; but were it otherwise, I must, in some degree, partake of your misery. I have written this much upon the supposition that you might have serious

thoughts of matrimony, but upon reflection I think it almost impossible, and that I have viewed in too serious a light what you wrote to your cousin in a jocular strain. I hope it is so; but supposing it otherwise, I presume to give you an advice—*Get out of the way;* that is, go up to Montreal as soon as you can, and whatever you may think, you will find absence an infallible cure. I advise this, not only from my own experience, but it has been the experience of the whole world from the beginning, and human nature is the same in you as in others. Your sisters neither know of my writing you, nor know they anything of the subject of my letter, or they would be very uneasy. Jenny has been troubled with slight nervous ailments for some time, for which she went over to Arran about ten days ago. Mary accompanied her, and they both write that she is much relieved. The rest of the family are in their ordinary. Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain, &c."

So anxious was Mr Montgomery on this subject that three copies of this letter were made and dispatched to Mr Wilson. Soon after they were sent off Mr Montgomery received Mr Wilson's own communications, which have already been given. He immediately wrote [on 13th August] the following answer:—"Since writing you on 30th ulto. I am favoured with yours of the 30th June, which confirms what I only suspected before (your intention to marry). You cannot conceive what uneasiness it gives your sisters, particularly Babby. I must beg you seriously to reflect on what she and Betty have wrote upon this

occasion, together with my letter of the 30th ulto., to which I have only to add, that, if Miss Duniere is a sensible girl, she will not wish to bring misery on herself and you, and entail it also on your progeny. If you fairly state your circumstances to her, she will (I am sure) decline the match for the present. If you do not state them fairly, you deceive her, after which you can expect no happiness in the married state.

"I believe that no one who knows me will accuse me of bigotry or narrowness of religious principles. God knows that good people of all professions are equally dear to me, and I could join with any society of worshippers who paid their adoration to one God, yet I would not choose a confidential servant, a bosom friend, and, far less, my wife to be a Roman Catholic. One of the greatest comforts of matrimony must be the having another half to whom you can unbosom yourself; to her you impart your joys, your griefs, your schemes; and she rejoices with you, she consoles you, and she advises you. You communicate your secrets to her; but can you depend on their being long secrets where the priest has a key to unlock them? A woman whose religion binds her to confess to the priest can only be half the spouse of her husband.

"I rejoice that you will by this time be at Montreal. Absence will cure you of a passion that it would be worse than madness in you to indulge. All our passions are implanted in us for wise ends, though we are not always to yield to them. You may ask, 'What end can this fit

of passion serve if I am not to yield to it?' I will tell you why you are struck with it. It is to instigate you to double diligence in the way of your business, that you may soon have it in your power to be happy with some lady on whom you may fix your affection.

"Mary and Jenny are still in Arran, but we do not send your letters to them, least they might occasion a relapse in Jenny. Hoping to hear from you soon, and that you have played the man, allowing reason to resume her seat, I remain, &c. P.S.—The consequence of your marrying will be a dissolution of your copartnery, and a Power of Attorney will probably be sent out authorising some one to settle the first concern with you."

The receipt of these letters and of those written by his sisters produced from Mr Wilson the following reply, which is equally characteristic, and shows the discipline under which he had his mind. This, indeed, was a singular feature in his character throughout life:—"Quebec, 5th June 1782.—I received your favour of the 13th August only a few days ago, with a letter from Betty and Babby, the contents of which give me no small uneasiness. Think not, my dear brother, that my attachment for Miss Duniere is so slight as to be cured by absence. Be assured that it will last while I remain in this world, and that no other woman can ever make me happy. The young lady is too sensible to wish a connection formed betwixt us that would make us both unhappy, and as every person I had any kind of right to look upon as my friends are against my enjoying any

kind of happiness in this world, be it so. I resign myself to my fate.

"Another opportunity will offer soon, when I shall write both you and my sisters. At present my heart is too full to say more—Adieu; and believe me to be, my dear brother, yours affectionately."

Those only who know anything of the sweet pains of love, and of the struggle requisite to subdue an attachment which is entirely virtuous, can enter into the feelings of the amiable writer. On 8th July he again wrote. Alluding to his last he says:—"At that time my heart was so full that I do not recollect one word of my letter. I have since received your favour of the 4th February. The letters I have received this spring, my dear brother, have hurt me not a little, for, believe me, whatever you may think of the matter, my affection for the young lady I formerly mentioned can never be cured by absence. I can easily perceive why it is disagreeable to J. Wilson & Sons my marrying in this country. They have, however, no occasion to think that I will ever squander any of their property, for I have, and ever will think it my duty to be more careful of other people's property while in my hands than I would be of my own. My expectations of happiness in the married state are now gone, and it may prove happy for the young lady that no such connection has taken place, for the trade to this country is now so overdone that I see not at present the smallest prospect of making money; but, on the contrary, a very great probability of losing considerably. I

wish I may be mistaken, but I am very much afraid that every person concerned in this trade will feel the fatal effects in a short time of sending such large quantities of goods, and giving such extensive credits as they have done for these two or three years past. My compliments to all friends, and let Fortune smile or frown, believe me to be, ever your affectionate brother."

On 5th August Mr Montgomery wrote as follows:—"The family here are pleased with you for having put off your marriage, as are all your friends and connections in trade. You seem to have been a good deal affected when you wrote me, but we hope by your next letters to learn that time and absence have contributed much to your ease."

On 18th October Mr Wilson writes in answer:—"I was no doubt a good deal affected when I wrote you in June, and should have a mean opinion of myself indeed if absence alone were to make me easy, but my regard for the young lady is sincere, and it is her happiness alone that can make me so."

In reference to public affairs Mr Wilson says:—"The accounts we have had lately of the evacuation of Charleston, with our fears for New York, alarm us a good deal. These news, together with the distressed situation of the mercantile people of this province, on account of the Contractor's agent having refused to draw bills payable in the course of the winter, as has been the custom since the commencement of the present war, makes the prospect before us by no means the most flattering. The merchants here, trusting

to get bills as usual, can make but small remittances to their correspondents, the consequences of which must be severely felt, not only here, but by the merchants at home who are deeply concerned in this trade."

At the close of this year (1782) the independence of America was acknowledged by Great Britain, and peace concluded. In 1776 the States declared themselves independent. In 1778 they were recognised as such by France, in 1782 by Holland, in 1783 by Sweden, Denmark, and Russia. The contest cost Britain 43,633 men, and near 116 millions of money, and, after all, was unsuccessful. A great people struggling for liberty are not to be vanquished, and the loss of these colonies merely reduced a wing of an unwieldy empire. Britain has added far more to her trade, revenues, and riches by her intercourse with America as an independent State than ever could have been realised by retaining such a distant and unmanageable colony.

The public mind was prepared for this great revolution by the political writings of Paine and others. Though Paine's notions of government were subversive of all good order and could not be acted on, though he was a sophistical reasoner and, on the whole, a superficial thinker, yet his writings obtained a most extensive popularity, took great hold of the public, and aided the cause of American independence. That the revolution was favourable to the cause of freedom in general cannot be doubted, though there is much to be done ere the Americans can boast loudly of their country. The existence of slavery is a "*damned spot*"

which all the perfumes of Arabia cannot sweeten, and the toleration of the outrages of lynch law argues a weakness in the executive power inconsistent with security. These defects may, however, be remedied, and probably that which has been fancied may be realised—the second *advent* may there take place, and there the seat of empire and of power may finally close its reign; or, as was said by Bishop Berkeley :—

> Westward the course of empire takes its way;
> The first four acts already past,
> The fifth shall close the drama with the day;
> Time's noblest offspring is the last.[1]

It appearing that the concern in Canada in which Mr Wilson was engaged had not been profitable, and the prospect for continuing it not being inviting, it was resolved to wind it up. This intention was first communicated to Mr Wilson in a letter, of 31st March 1783, from Mr Montgomery, who said it was the wish of Messrs Wilson to have him to go to Maryland to collect the debts of the old concern, which had been abandoned during the severity of the war. Mr Wilson takes notice of this on 18th July :— "Having no goods out this year on account of the concern, we are endeavouring to wind up our affairs as fast as possible, and everything either in Mr Campbell's power or mine has been doing to get remittances made to J. Wilson & Sons this spring. It will no doubt, unfortunately, be a disappointment to them, but no bills of exchange can

[1] "Verses on the Prospect of Planting Arts and Learning in America."

be got for money, in consequence of which we have chartered a vessel, which will sail in a few days, and load her with oil for Port-Glasgow, as the most expeditious method of getting them a remittance. I am happy the concern is to be closed, though I am afraid money has been lost in it, for the trade to this country is entirely overdone, and such quantities of goods on hand, and arriving every day, that they are now selling for almost one-half their original value.

"I would have no objections to return to Maryland and collect the Company's debts there. Mr [James] Wilson, however, mentions nothing of that to me. As for launching out into any new business, I have no idea of, nor would wish it, until I have been some time there to look about me.

"Mr Campbell goes home this fall. I must therefore remain to collect the debts and wind up matters, which is not to be done in an instant, though every care has been taken to keep our business in as small a compass as possible, and more difficult in these times, when the trade of the province appears to be ruined."

On 11th September 1783, Mr Wilson writes that he is to remain during the winter at Quebec, as it is impossible to get the affairs of the Company wound up before winter. He adds:—"The confusion that reigns throughout the United States at present, and the violent proceedings of the different associations there, afford but a poor prospect to those people who intend returning among them. Mr Charles Paterson, who tells me he saw you in London,

and who is just returned from New York overland (which place he left on 25th August), gives a shocking account of the situation the country is in. He says that no person who goes into it, whether to look after their property or collect debts, is allowed to remain among them. W. Wilson was every day expected to arrive in Virginia, but Mr Paterson assures me that he will not be allowed to remain."

The next letter is from Quebec, dated 12th November. Mr Wilson says:—"Having but few goods on hand, and little business to do during the winter, I have some thoughts of taking a trip to New York, partly on purpose to avoid the dissipated life and constant round of fashionable amusements that almost every person gives into here for near six months in the year (which I shall very soon get tired of), and partly with an intention to see in what situation the United States are. Should I go to New York, and find that I have time to return to Canada before the lakes break up in the spring, I shall go as far to the southward as Alexandria, so that, in all probability, I will have an opportunity of writing you from that part of the world in the course of the winter, and will be glad to hear from you by way of New York."

Before taking notice of the account Mr Wilson gives of his journey to the United States, we may call attention to a change in the domestic society at Bogston. Dr Robert Borland of Kilmarnock, having paid his addresses to Mary, the youngest daughter of Bailie Wilson by his first wife, Margaret Montgomerie, was accepted, and they were married

at Bogston on 26th April 1784. This connection was agreeable to the family. Dr Borland was the son of Mr Robert Borland of Kilmarnock, and had been a class-fellow of Mr Montgomery. Having been bred a surgeon, he went out to Jamaica, where he practised his profession successfully, and, having entered into business as a planter, was in the fair way of making a fortune. He had come to Scotland on a visit, and was to return to Jamaica without delay. He is represented by Mr Montgomery in his letters as an agreeable man, and the family seemed all well pleased at their sister's good fortune. The separation from her friends threw a partial gloom over their happiness, but this was unavoidable. Dr and Mrs Borland left Bogston on 1st September. Mr Montgomery accompanied them to London. He kept a short journal of their tour, with a note of his expenses. They travelled by Harrowgate, Leeds, Lichfield, and Oxford —in all, 509 miles. Mr Montgomery visited the London theatres, and noted every piece he saw performed, with the names of the leading performers. He saw Lunardi make the first aerial voyage attempted in Britain. He accompanied his friends to Gravesend, and there, on the 18th, bid them farewell. He left London on the 20th, and returned *via* Grantham, Sheffield, Leeds, and Greta to Carlisle; thence to Glasgow by Moffat and Douglas-mill, and arrived at Bogston on 30th October, having been absent sixty days, including the days of departure and return. His neat expenses were £39, 1s. 9d., besides £3, 12s. 6d. laid out in small purchases.

The following letter from Mr Wilson, to whom we now return, gives an account of his journey to New York and Philadelphia, and is interesting from the facts and observations it contains:—"Quebec, August 1784.—My dear Brother,—Your letters of the 6th and 26th of April I received a few days ago; that of the 7th February never came to hand. I wrote you about the 1st of April, from New York, which would be forwarded by Mr Wm. Shedden.

"A history of my southern jaunt will not be very entertaining. I shall, however, give you an account of it, such as it is. I left Montreal the 15th of February in company with five other gentlemen, four in one sleigh, two in another, and two more for our baggage, provisions, &c. We stopped that night at St John's (a fort at the entrance of Lake Champlain), and next day proceeded on our journey to Albany, where we arrived in four days, after as pleasant a jaunt as I ever made in my life. Figure to yourself four of us in one sleigh sitting playing at whist, and, at the same time, going at the rate of eight miles an hour. This you will scarcely have an idea of. It was, however, really the case. The lake was one continued sheet of ice, with about four inches of snow upon it, which made the carriages go easy; and the weather was so very mild and calm that we amused ourselves two or three hours in the day at cards with the same convenience as if we had been in a house. On our getting into the inhabited country we were a good deal entertained with the country people's coming round our sleighs and staring at us. Upon asking them what they

wanted, they would tell us they only came to look at the '*tarnation Tories*' from Canada. We found our situation, however, rather disagreeable in Albany, being often insulted, which made us leave the place as quick as possible, and proceed down the North River. When we got within about forty miles from New York the ice became so bad, and little snow on the ground, that we were obliged to return our sleighs, and proceed on foot to Fort Washington, where we got carriages into town. I there met with Mr William Shedden [of Roughwood] and some other old acquaintances. After staying two days, I proceeded in the stage for Philadelphia, and after staying there two days set out for Baltimore. By this time it was the 10th of March, and the roads began to break up. I, however, pushed on in expectation of getting to Alexandria, but was stopped on the 12th at Susquehannah on account of the rivers being impassable beyond that, and as I had to be back in Quebec by the beginning of May, was obliged to return. I had letters from a friend to deliver at the head of Elk to a Mrs Alexander, at whose house I passed two days very agreeably. On my arrival at the River Schuylkill the ice was just beginning to move, which prevented my getting over, and detained me two days, where I was witness to a very distressing scene. About two hours after I got there the ice gave way, and in half-an-hour's time the river rose near thirty feet, and carried off everything that was near it. Houses, cattle, and furniture were passing down the river all the day following. Fortunately, the people had sufficient warning to get out of the way.

"After remaining eight days at Philadelphia, I returned to New York, where I found everything in confusion. A disagreeable circumstance happened there, which I shall mention, as it had nearly turned out of a very serious nature. One day as Captain Muir,[1] of the 53rd Regiment (a son of Baron Muir's, who had just arrived from Canada on his way to the West Indies) and myself were walking up Broadway, we heard a noise behind us, and upon looking round, saw a man, genteelly dressed, standing up in a cart, and a number of people round it, huzzaing for volunteers. We could not imagine what was the matter;—however, thought it best to keep out of their road: But the rascals had observed Captain Muir have a cockade in his hat, and laid hold of him immediately, ordering him into the cart along with the other '*damned rascal.*' It was in vain to reason with such a set. The cart was brought, and Captain Muir forced into it. The carter was then ordered to drive to Cuninghame's Gallows. I was quite stupefied. However, finding myself at liberty (which was what I did not expect), I made what haste I could to our lodgings, and, along with some other Canadians, waited upon Governor Clinton, who, upon hearing the story, immediately set off, and arrived in time to rescue Captain Muir, and prevent any further violence being committed by the mob. The other poor fellow, fortunately, made his escape at the time the Governor came to Captain Muir's assistance, for, as he happened to

[1] Afterwards Col. William Mure, of Caldwell, Vice-Lieutenant of Renfrewshire, who died 9th February 1831.

be a loyal refugee, nobody durst have interfered, and few would have thought it worth their while to prevent the mob's doing what they pleased with him.

"I remained in New York about eight days after this adventure, when I got a passage in a sloop for Albany, and from thence proceeded to Fort-George in company with two ladies and four gentlemen, where we were obliged to remain about ten days until the lake was clear of ice. On the 24th of April we proceeded over the lakes in a boat for Canada, and on the 2nd of May I arrived in Quebec.

"From what I have seen, and the observations I have made during this long tour, my opinions are not altered in favour of the United States. The people, everywhere that I have been, are oppressed with taxes which it is not in their power to pay—the consequence of which is, that their property is sold by the Sheriff without their daring to complain. In that situation, you will not be surprised that the people are emigrating fast from the heart of the country to seek refuge in the wilderness from their oppressors. You may perhaps think these are only Tories. Be assured that both Whigs and Tories in thousands are leaving their once happy native country, in hopes of getting a subsistence in the interior parts of this continent that have hitherto been inhabited only by savages. Numbers of worthy men, who, from republican principles, have, from the beginning of the war, favoured and assisted to make their country independent, are now ready to curse themselves for having been the means of bringing about this unhappy revolution.

Notwithstanding of the sufferings of the unfortunate loyalists who have fled to Britain for protection, they may think themselves happy in comparison with the citizens of the United States. My opinion of the trade carrying on at present to the United States is bad indeed, and the accounts every day from thence serve to convince me that it is not ill-founded. The Northern States have neither money nor produce to send in return for the large quantities of goods imported this year, and the people who have received them are now laughing at the British merchants for being so easily fooled out of their property. The truth of this must be very soon felt in London, but until they feel, I believe it is impossible to make them believe it. The Southern States have some produce to give in return for goods, but even there the merchants will find very great disappointment from the remittances. The people, I am informed, are much quieter than in the Northern States, and have their Government better settled, but I am apt to think that they would be as restless as their Northern neighbours if they were not getting a very great price for their tobacco.

"This long scroll will be sufficient to inform you that I have little to do. I expect Alexander Campbell over here from New York in the course of next month, when we must endeavour to get our concerns in this country settled, and as it may be necessary for us both to go home to get our affairs wound up there, I may probably have it in my power to be at Bogston in December. . . . I am happy

to hear of our sister's marriage, and doubt not, from the character I have heard of Dr Borland, but they will be happy together. With my best compliments to all friends, I remain, your affectionate brother."

The following letter will show how severe the mercantile distress was beginning to be felt in Canada:—"Quebec, 25th October 1784.—When I wrote you last August I fully expected to have had it in my power to leave Canada by this time, but the distressed situation of the mercantile part of this province makes the collection of debts very difficult, and as Mr Campbell does not come here this fall, it will be impossible for me to get away. You may judge of our situation when I inform you that about three-fourths of the merchants are now bankrupts, some of whom pay nothing, and few of them 10s. in the pound. One house failed for upwards of £40,000, and the whole dividend among their creditors amounts to no more than 2s. 9d. in the pound. Such ruinous proceedings must be felt by every person, and we are indebted for them all to the extensive credit given for Government bills during the war."

Mr Montgomery wrote Mr Wilson, stating the difficulties under which Messrs James Wilson & Sons were for want of money, and that they were looking for large remittances from him, as they stated that they were in advance £17,000 for the concern. Mr Montgomery urged him to do what was in his power to make remittances. In the meantime, as Mr Wilson found he could do no good by remaining where he was, he resolved to leave Canada and return to

England. On 13th March 1785, he wrote from New York that he was so far on his way, and had taken his passage in the French packet to sail in a few days. He says:—"This route I prefer to going in the British packet, as it will not only cost less money, but, at the same time, give me a view of some part of France. I shall expect to see you all happy at Bogston very soon. Till then—Adieu."

His next letter is from London, on 12th May, intimating that he had sailed from New York on 24th March, arrived in France 21st April, and had reached London on 11th May. He waited to hear from Messrs Wilson & Son, who were at Kilmarnock, before he should leave London for Scotland, and deferred giving any particulars of his journey until he should do it in person. We have thus no written account of his French tour. The only reminiscence of it is his passport at leaving the dominions of Louis, which is dated at Versailles, 6th May 1785.

Mr Wilson arrived in safety at Bogston, and had a happy meeting with his friends. This was clouded, however, by the sad state of his mercantile affairs. They had been overtaken by the general calamity which befel the merchants of Canada. His balance-sheet showed losses to the amount of £20,000. His patrimony was entirely gone, and, at the age of thirty-one, he found himself without a shilling, and without business. He was again left to his resources, and again called on to exercise his patience and resignation, and still, as a prisoner, "Condemned to hope's delusive mine."[1]

[1] Dr Johnson, On the death of John Levett.

SECTION FOURTH.

MR WILSON'S GOING TO INDIA, HIS RESIDENCE AT CALCUTTA, BUSINESS, AND FINAL RETURN TO BRITAIN.

(1785-1814).

Mr Wilson spent the summer of 1785 in the happy society of his family circle; but as it was necessary for him again to return to the world, he now resolved to go out to India. As this was attended with some difficulty, and as he had in view no connection in business with any individual or company there, he, of course, had no fixed plan, but resolved to wait until he should reach Calcutta, and see what prospect should there open to him.

So tender were his feelings towards his sisters that he concealed from them his intention of going to India, thinking that the excitement of parting would prove too severe. They did not know of his resolution for some time after he left Bogston. Having bid them and his brother an affectionate farewell, he arrived in London on 24th November. He tried to get a passage to Calcutta on board the *Hussar*, Captain M'Intosh, but was disappointed. This proved fortunate, as the captain soon after died suddenly, much in debt, and, his creditors interfering, the vessel was not allowed to sail at the time, and the passengers were, to their great inconvenience and loss, obliged to leave her and look for another

ship. By the friendly interest and exertions of Dr —— Cairns of London, to whom Mr Wilson was introduced by Dr Wm. Hamilton of Craighlaw, then residing in Kilmarnock (father of Mrs Cochran, now of Ladyland), he got a passage on board the Company's ship *Phœnix*, Captain Rattray. He was to go out as purser of the ship,[1] and was to pay 100 guineas for his passage. In one of his last letters from London he writes Mr Montgomery as follows:—"I need not, I hope, mention that I am sensible of your affectionate favours both as a brother and friend to my sisters and me. Fortune, I hope, will at a short period of time put it in my power to show that I am.——"

Before leaving London Mr Wilson was obliged to grant acceptance to James Wilson & Sons for considerable sums on account of the alleged loss to arise from the concerns at Quebec and Montreal. Of course, an accurate state of these affairs could not be made out, but from an interim state prepared by themselves, they made Mr Wilson debtor to a large amount. He complained of this, but as he could make it no better at the time, was obliged to submit. On this subject he wrote his brother as follows:—"London, 12th January 1786.—I have been rather too precipitate in granting the bills to Messrs James Wilson & Son, and wish that I had examined the accounts more minutely, as there are several charges which I am not perfectly satisfied with. I mean, however, if Fortune ever put it in my power, to pay everything I am owing them upon the accounts being fairly

[1] See Postscript to Memoir.

stated, expecting the same allowances to be made me which James Wilson & Son may receive from their creditors on account of the losses they have sustained by the Quebec concern." This shows that Mr Wilson, though acceptor of the bills, considered that he was not truly debtor to the drawers in their full amount, and that he ought to have had a fair count and reckoning previous to his being urged to grant them. The bills were soon passed into other hands, and were held as a dead weight on Mr Wilson's exertions for many years subsequent to this date.

While in London Mr Wilson wrote very affectionate letters to Dr and Mrs Borland, requesting them both to write him often, and pleasing himself with the fond anticipation of finding them settled in Scotland when he returned from India.

Having got the dispatches from the India House, Mr Wilson left London on the night of 13th January and arrived at Deal next day, at 1 p.m., from which he wrote Mr Montgomery, and concludes by saying—"I have just been examining my cash and find my whole stock amounts to ten pounds some odd shillings, which I hope will answer my purpose till I get to Calcutta. I want nothing more of it." A postscript is added:—"On board the *Phœnix* in the Downs, 16th January, 2 o'clock afternoon.—The ship is just come round, and I have only time to inform you that we are now under sail with a fair wind, which I hope will continue till we get out of the Channel. Happiness attend my dear brother and sisters, and with compliments to all friends, I remain, ever your affectionate brother." So God

bless the good ship *Phœnix* and her captain and crew and passengers, and send them in safety to their desired haven. Leaving her to plough the "deep and dark blue ocean," we return to Scotland to introduce to notice another incident in Mr Wilson's history, where Fortune still showed towards him a stepmother's kindness.

It has been stated that Mr Wilson's mother was Janet Simson, and that she was the daughter of William Simson of Willowyard, by Barbara, eldest daughter of William Barclay of Warrix. The Barclays of Warrix are a branch of the Barclays of Pierston, a family of considerable antiquity, of whom there is notice *circa* 1400, and one of whom was created a Baronet in 1668, which title still remains with his descendants.[1] The estate was sold in 1720 by Sir Robert Barclay to Mr Andrew Macredie, Provost of Stranraer, in whose family it now is. Of the Barclays of Warrix, the most distinguished was Robert Barclay, Provost of Irvine, for many years Commissioner from that burgh to the Parliament of Scotland; and who was a person of great talent for business, and devoted himself with much zeal to the public service in the exciting reign of Charles the First.[2] He was ancestor of Provost William Barclay, Mr Wilson's great grandfather, but in what degree of relationship has not been ascertained. The Provost was married to Martha

[1] For an account of the Barclays of Pierston see *Ponts Cuninghame* by Dobie, p. 347.

[2] He was one of the Commissioners dispatched to the Continent to offer the Crown to His Majesty Charles II. (Paterson's *History of Ayr and Wigton Shires*—Historical Sketch, p. clxxv.) See also Robertson's *Ayrshire Families*, Vol. III. p. 333.

Barr,[1] and had two daughters—Barbara, who, as already stated, married Mr Simson; and Jean, who married Zacharias Gemmill, writer in Irvine. This lady had a "misfortune," as the phrase of lenient censure styles it. It appears that she had been courted by James Marshall, Town Clerk of Irvine, and in the meantime had first one child to him and then another. She brought an action against him before the Commissaries of Edinburgh to have a marriage declared, but this was not insisted in, and she became the wife of Zacharias Gemmill. On 26th November 1734, Mr Gemmill appeared before the Presbytery of Irvine, and craved that his wife might be absolved from her scandal, "seeing it is of ane old date and almost sopite." The Presbytery agreed to consult the Synod on the matter, but the record does not notice the result. These facts are noticed to show the difficulty of accounting for the preference given to Jean over her elder sister Barbara. The Provost had only one son, Robert, who was bred a surgeon and went to Buenos Ayres. In February 1722, Provost Barclay executed a disposition of his estate in favour of his son, who in June following, without being infeft on his father's deed, executed an entail of the property in favour of the heirs male of himself and of his father and his father's brother Alexander, whom failing, to the heirs female in the same order. Immediately afterwards Dr Barclay went to Buenos Ayres, where he settled. In 1729, the Provost recalled his disposition of 1722, and executed an entail in

[1] Third daughter of Robert Barr of Trearne.

which he called his second daughter Jean to the succession, failing the heirs male of the body of Robert. On this deed Robert was infeft, though without his knowledge. Robert died at Buenos Ayres in 1734, and it does not appear that he knew of this last-mentioned deed executed by his father. He appears to have intended making a settlement in favour of his sister Jean, whom he wished to succeed him: Whether such a deed was ever executed is not known, but the following writing was found among his papers and sent to England along with his last will and testament. In it reference is made to a previous deed. "I hereby declare that the disposition which I have granted in favour of my sister, Jean Barclay, was made with the real intent that she, the said Jean Barclay, after my father's and my death, no lawful heirs of my body surviving, might take quiet possession for her own use and her heirs of all lands, houses, tenements, sum or sums of money, and all other effects whatsoever belonging to me at and before my death; and as I have no lawyer here to apply to for advice, and to draw such a disposition as might be more valid to secure to my said sister all lands, sums of money, or other effects whatsoever belonging to me at my death, I thought proper to annex this, that my design and intention by the foresaid disposition might not be frustrated or prevented by any mistake or ignorance of the writer." He also made a testament in which he gave and bequeathed all his lands and other estate in liferent to his father, and after his decease, to his sister Jean and her heirs for ever. A

litigation took place as to the import of these deeds and of Robert Barclay's entail of 1722, between Jean Barclay, his sister, and his uncle, Alexander Barclay, who, by that deed of entail, was called to the succession before Jean. This litigation ended in a compromise by submission and decree arbitral by which the lands were divided between these parties. No share of the estate was allotted for the heirs of Barbara, the eldest sister. She, having died, was succeeded by her only child, Janet Simson (Mr Wilson's mother), who, having been advised that the writings executed by Robert Barclay were not sufficient to convey his heritable estate from his heirs, was served heir to her mother, and brought a reduction of the titles which had been made up to the estate by the joint holders of it. The case came before Lord Elchies Ordinary, who found "that the disposition by Robert Barclay of 1722 was revoked by the testament and codicil annexed executed by him in 1734, and that the said testament and codicil was no habile conveyance of the heritage in question, and that the pursuer, Janet Simson, and Robert Barclay Gemmill, defender, are joint heirs by the disposition of 1722 granted by William Barclay the father." On the case being taken before the Inner House, the Court found that the testament and codicil, though not effectual to convey heritage, were a sufficient indication of the will of Robert Barclay, that his whole estate should descend to the heirs therein mentioned, and, as such, afforded a ground of action to those heirs. This decision was given by a majority of one vote, and was looked upon by lawyers

as contrary to the principles of the feudal law of Scotland. It was, however, acquiesced in on the part of Mrs Wilson. Mr Robert Barclay Gemmill, the only child of Jean Barclay and Zacharias Gemmill, never brought any action against her to complete his title in terms of the decision, and as he had no heirs of his own body, the succession at his death would have opened to the heirs of Mrs Wilson, his aunt. Mrs Wilson died in November 1769, and was succeeded by Mr Wilson, her only son. In 1783, Mr Gemmill, being then in a poor state of health and become much addicted to liquor, was prevailed upon to settle his estate upon James Innes, writer in Irvine, who was no relative, and who, it appeared, was much in his company and had acquired great influence over him. In the end of 1785, as Mr Wilson was preparing to leave this country for India, Mr Gemmill died, and another opportunity occurred for trying the validity of the titles which had been made up to exclude Mrs Wilson and her heirs from the succession to Warrix. Mr Wilson was in London preparing to sail when he received intelligence of Mr Gemmill's death, and of his settlement in favour of Mr Innes. He wrote Mr Montgomery as follows:—"I am not surprised at the manner in which things have been settled, and have but very little hope of recovering anything by going to law. If Mr Innes would give anything worth while upon my giving up all right to the lands, I would think it the best method of settling matters, and it would be very agreeable to me." He afterwards wrote—"If you see it necessary to commence a process of reduction you

will do it, and I wish you to act in everything relating to Warrix as you think best for my interest."

After Mr Wilson sailed, Mr Montgomery took the opinion of two eminent lawyers on this case. They were not very encouraging, and Mr Montgomery himself never seems to have entertained hopes of success; but as others did so, and as it would have been a great matter for Mr Wilson to get this estate and be thereby cleared of all his encumbrances, it was at length resolved to try the question. Mr Wilson having granted a bond to his brother for a sum due him on an accounting between them, Mr Montgomery on this bond raised diligence, and, as adjudging creditor of Mr Wilson, brought a reduction of the title held by Mr Innes and Mr Alexander Foulds, who had acquired right to part of the estate. Mr Matthew Ross was counsel for Mr Montgomery, and Mr Andrew Blane, W.S., agent. Mr Charles Hay was counsel for Mr Innes and Mr Foulds, and Mr Thomas Adair was agent. The cause was therefore in able hands, and was conducted on both sides with much ability. When it came before the Court, Mr Wilson's claim was met by the plea of the positive prescription of forty years which had been allowed to run, and this plea was sustained, but the Court reprobated the former decision. Lord Justice-Clerk MacQueen said with regard to the old decision—"I am very clear it was ill decided. I am for preserving the purity of our conveyances, and I have always endeavoured to preserve them. In this case I see no distinction between the will and the codicil; they are both declarations of

intention and no more, and I hold it to be an inviolable rule of the feudal law of Scotland that an estate cannot be carried by mere expressions of will. There must be words *de presenti* conveying the lands." The Lord President said he was "pleased to have this opportunity of expressing his dissent from the old decision in 1751. As to the opinion that a latter will and testament may create an obligation to dispone, there cannot be an opinion more hurtful to the feudal law of Scotland. Yet this opinion, founded on the decision of 1751, is constantly brought back upon us, and I take this opportunity of saying that it is a decision which ought to be erased from the records."

Thus were the hopes of Mr Wilson's friends cut off from this quarter, and the matter made so much worse by the heavy expenses incurred in trying the question. Mr Wilson himself was not disappointed. He had not calculated on success, and he received the intelligence of his defeat with his usual tranquillity. In the meantime we have anticipated this part of our narrative, as the decision was not given for several years after Mr Wilson left England, but it was thought better to finish this detail at once than to revert to it periodically during its progress. We therefore leave this discussion, and resume the narrative of Mr Wilson's personal history.

The good ship *Phœnix* had an agreeable passage and arrived in safety at Calcutta on 31st May 1786. Mr Wilson met with a very friendly reception from Mr William Fairlie and Mr John Ferguson, who were resident there as merchants,

and made their house his home for some time. It was suggested that a Mr Lennox and he should go to Luchipore and see what encouragement presented itself there for commencing business as manufacturers of cloth and indigo. Mr Lennox and he went by Dacca to Luchipore, where they arrived on 20th September. On 15th December Mr Wilson wrote to his brother:—"Since my arrival here I have been learning the language and making myself acquainted with the manufacturing business. I have hitherto been doing nothing for myself, but expect soon to get employed in that line. In the meantime I live at little or no expense in a very agreeable country and quite retired, there being no European within twenty miles but Mr Lennox and a Frenchman who lives with him. Our nearest neighbour is a very worthy gentleman, brother to Mr Reid of Seabank.

"Mr Lennox is now going to Calcutta, where Mr Fairlie intends proposing that I should be concerned with him in the manufacturing of cloth and indigo. I shall write you so soon as I know the result of the proposal. I consider myself as very fortunate in getting down here with Mr Lennox, notwithstanding I have not yet got into any employment. A great number of young men who came out lately have been obliged to return again, though strongly recommended to people in power here, and many remain perfectly idle. There is not a possibility of getting into the Company's service, and no person without their permission is allowed to settle in the interior parts of the country. It is under Mr Lennox's wing that I am allowed to remain

here, though liable to be sent to Calcutta whenever the Company's servants think proper, a power which, however, I hope they will never exercise. The private merchants in Calcutta have it not in their power to be of so much service to people coming out to this country as formerly. They have met with considerable losses at the close of the war as well as those in other parts of the world, and I am sorry to find that our friend Mr Fairlie has not been without his share of them.

"I had letters lately from my old partner Alexander Campbell informing me of his arrival at Calcutta, where he has no prospect of getting into any employment, and finds that Sir Archibald Campbell's interest is of no service to him either there or at Madras. Another instance of strong recommendations being of no service in this country at present is—I have seen since my arrival a nephew of the Duke of Manchester, who came out passenger with us, found that all that nobleman's interest could get him into no office here, the Company being determined both to reduce the number of their servants and their salaries, which during Mr Hastings' Government were enormous."

On 12th January 1787, Mr Wilson writes:—"I am still out of employment, but expect not to be long so. Mr Lennox, with whom I came to this part of the country, is now in Calcutta, and will return in about three weeks, when I shall know what I have to expect. I am now staying at Mr Reid's, where I have been since Christmas, and am much indebted to him for the friendship he has shown me. Our

chief employment is hunting wild boars, which are very numerous in this part of the country, and the best sport of the kind I ever saw. You need not, therefore, doubt that my present situation is agreeable."

Mr Montgomery had written in December that Messrs Wilsons' affairs were in the greatest confusion and that they had put them under trust, and added—"I will be obliged to pay every penny of the heavy engagements I am under for them to the amount of £1100, and how to raise the money I do not know." In answer to this Mr Wilson writes (26th October 1787):—"Your being so deeply involved on account of J. Wilson & Sons prevents my enjoying the agreeable intelligence [in the letter he had just received], and distresses me the more as I see no prospect soon of having it in my power to afford you the smallest relief. I hope you will give them no acquittances upon any terms. Fortune, my dear brother, may still take a favourable turn; and nothing, I am sure, on this earth would give me so much pleasure as to be enabled to remit sufficient to extricate you from all difficulties. The Wilsons having made over all their property to two or three gentlemen is certainly a very unjust act. I cannot help mentioning, however, that it does not surprise me. I hope, for their own sake as well as mine, those gentlemen will not send my bills out to this country. Such a step would be productive of no one advantage to them, and it would certainly cause me to take such measures as would for ever prevent their recovering a sixpence."

On the subject of business and prospects this letter con-

tained the following information, which showed that Fortune had not yet begun to smile on Mr Wilson's labours:—"In my last, I informed you of my intention of turning Indigo-planter. Mr Lennox returned from Calcutta soon after, when we put our scheme in execution, and planted about 200 acres of ground. By the month of June the plant was ready to cut, and the works all finished. About the end of that month, when we had just got the manufacturing fairly set agoing, a flood such as seldom happens here laid the whole country under water, totally destroyed our crops, and put an end to all our expectations for this season. Our loss will amount to about one thousand pounds, for my half of which, as well as all my expenses since my arrival in India, I stand indebted to Mr Fairlie (the last sum is, however, not very considerable)."

While Mr Wilson was thus teased by the failure of his plans in India, a change had been taking place in the domestic circle at Bogston. His eldest sister (of full blood), Barbara, was married, on 18th June this year (1787), to her cousin, John Shedden of Morishill. It is proper, for the more fully appreciating the subsequent part of this narrative, to introduce this connection more particularly.

Several families of the name of Shedden are found in the earliest written notices of Beith about the beginning of the seventeenth century. One family settled on the estate of Hazlehead, and resided near the Manor-place. Some of the members of this family dealt in merchandise, and gradually acquired wealth. John Shedden settled in Beith as a merchant. His eldest son, Robert, went to Holland, where he

resided for some time, and afterwards returned to Beith, where he married. He had two sons—Robert, who acquired Roughwood, and was ancestor of that family and of the family of the Sheddens of London, persons of great worth, respectability, and fortune; and John, who, in 1686, acquired the lands of Marsheland, in the parish of Beith.[1] In 1683 he married Margaret, only daughter of Matthew Montgomerie of Bogston, by Janet, daughter of William Moore of Bruntwood. Their eldest son succeeded to the lands of Marsheland, which continued with his descendants till 1785, when they were sold. Their second son, Robert, went to Virginia, where he settled as a merchant, and remained for many years. On his return to his native parish he bought the lands of Morishill and Broadstone, and married, in 1752, Margaret, daughter of William Simson of Willowyard, by his second marriage with Elizabeth, daughter of William Moore of Bruntwood, and therefore half-sister of Mr Wilson's mother. The lands of Morishill were acquired from William Adam, in whose family they had remained from 1660. The Adams came from Bowfield, in the parish of Lochwinnoch, and got Morishill by marriage, thus:—Henry Adam, son of John Adam, portioner of Bowfield, married Margaret Stewart, daughter of John Stewart of Morishill, and on them the lands were settled. Henry disponed the property to his nephew William, who had a son Henry, who at times was somewhat regardless of the fifth commandment, as appears from a case which was brought before the kirk-session of Beith in

[1] See Appendix III.

1704, of the following import:— "Hendry Adam Younger of Morishill being alledged guilty of undutiful carriage towards his father in fighting with him and running at him through the loan with a graip. The Session appoints the elder of the quarter and William Hamilton of Brownmuir, who they hear was present at the time, to converse with both father and son, and deal with them to agree, that this matter may come no farther." At next meeting the elders report "that they had spoken with William & Hendry Adam about their plea and that they both of them were sorry for what had fallen out, and the elders gave it as their opinion that this matter be not published further, in regard it makes little noise and din in the Parish, and its hoped they may live in more peace together and with their neighbours than ever. The Session having heard this their opinion, approve thereof, only they appoint the Minister to join with the above elders to deal with them to behave aright and as becometh the gospel in all time to come, and to advertise them, if they transgress in this sort, the Session will proceed to censure as they shall find cause."

Henry Adam was succeeded by his son William, who was the last of the race. He was a tippler, and frequented the change-house to the neglect of his property, and, becoming harassed for money, he was advised by some of his friends to sell a field or two of his farm and pay off his debts. This advice he rejected, saying that "He would either be a' Mor's-hill or nae Mor'shill."[1] This expression has continued a

[1] The name was commonly pronounced *Morshill*.

proverb in the parish, and is used when one is urged to dispose of part of a thing contrary to his own mind. At last the alternative of parting with the whole was resorted to, and William sold his paternal property, reserving only the burying-place in the churchyard. Morishill was bought by Robert Shedden in 1748. The transfer and peculiarity of the habits of the seller gave rise to the following couplet, which floats among the unrecorded rhymes of the parochial muse :—

William Adam of Mor'shill
Spent it a' in penny yill;
While Robert Shedden, as I'm told,
Bocht it wi' Virginia gold.

William Adam became bellman and kirk-officer, in which humble sphere he died.

When Mr Shedden came from Virginia he brought a negro with him, who ran off, and his master and owner tried to recover his services; but it was found that the negro having landed on British ground, the electric spark of liberty for ever broke his chains, and that his master had no longer control over him. The case is shortly reported.[1]

The only son of his marriage with Margaret Simson, who survived, was John. There were three daughters—Elizabeth, married to William Reid; Margaret, married to Charles Watson; and Janet, married to James Scrimgeour, all of

[1] The case came before the Court on 4th July 1757, and is reported in Morrison's "Dictionary of Decisions," 14-545. It is there stated that "the Lords appointed counsel for the negro and ordered memorials, and afterwards a hearing in presence, upon the respective claims of liberty and servitude by the master and negro.

"But during the hearing in presence the negro died;—so the point was not determined."

London. Robert Shedden died when his children were young, and his widow married James Wilson, Parish schoolmaster of Beith, who afterwards removed to London. His eldest son, James Wilson, became a surgeon of eminence, and, on 10th April 1800, was appointed Professor of Anatomy to the Royal College of Surgeons of London. He conducted Lectures on Anatomy and Surgery at the Hunterian School in Great Windmill Street, and his lectures were published in 3 volumes. His only son, Dr James Arthur Wilson, is now a physician in London of rising character in his profession, and an accomplished scholar and gentleman.[1]

John Shedden was born at Morishill, 27th June 1753, and was educated under Mr Wilson, his stepfather. In early life he went to the West Indies as supercargo of a ship, and remained there and in America for several years. On his return to Scotland he visited his friends at Bogston frequently, and formed an attachment to his cousin Barbara, and, as before stated, they were married on 18th July 1787, and settled at Morishill. This marriage extended the connection of the family considerably, and proved a great addition to the comfort and society of the respective families, who lived in great harmony with each other.

Mr Montgomery corresponded regularly with Dr Borland, and made purchases of goods for him, which were shipped from the Clyde. This was a little matter of business which gave him employment, and everything connected with these transactions was done in the most accurate manner. In

[1] See Appendix III.

return Dr Borland sent home presents of sugar and West India sweetmeats, which were shared among the friends of the family. The following incident is detailed in a letter of 3rd December 1787 from Bogston to the Doctor, which is introduced here by way of episode!—"Your presents came all to hand in good order, pepper excepted, which was spoiled owing to its having contracted moisture, tho' the annatto at the bottom of the canister was in good order. It will be tried in next year's cheeses. Your friends, among whom your presents were distributed as Mrs Borland directed, return you hearty thanks. The Willie Club (a social meeting in Kilmarnock) had a night consecrated to you, and did honour to your Rob,[1] not forgetting to drink Mrs Borland's health and yours. I have a vial full of Rob and a roll of chocolate put up for Mr Brown. Mrs Borland's castor oil came very opportunely for Mr M'Lellan,[2] who uses much of it; but Mrs Borland had like to have played us all, together with the Morishill family, a sad trick. We were all assembled here on the night of the arrival of your presents, and preparing to drink your health in punch made of your Rob. The cork was drawn, a proper quantity poured into the bowl, when I observed that it was too transparent for Rob. Jenny tasted it, and a discovery made of its being castor oil. Terrible would have been the night had not the discovery been made. The condition of the English army at the battle of Cressy would only have been a type of ours. The quart bottle marked 'castor oil' was next examined, and its contents

[1] *Rum*, so named after the sender. [2] Parish minister.

found to be excellent Rob. Your healths went round, and the joy of the evening was not lessened when we considered the narrow escape we had made."

Towards the close of this year the estates of James Wilson & Sons were sequestrated. To use a homely phrase, they had kept too many irons in the fire, and could not attend to them all. Ultimately the dividends proved very small, and great sums of money were lost by them. They made a claim on Government for the loss they had sustained on the ship *Sir William Erskine*. They intimated the loss by this vessel at £12,000, but it does not appear from the correspondence on what footing they claimed relief from Government.

Mr Wilson's plans having failed in the manner before narrated did not discourage him. He submitted with patience and preserved his kindly feelings. The following letter, which is given entire, conveys a pleasing picture of his mode of life at Luchipore, and contains more sentiment than he usually ventured to express:—"Luchipore, 6th March 1788.—Dear Brother,—My last letter was dated in October, when I informed you of my usual bad fortune, owing to an entire failure of our indigo crop, and since that time I have not heard from home. I have no great expectation of doing anything worth while this year; indeed, I do not even see a prospect of making up for last year's losses. I, however, consider my situation as much better than most people that have come out to India lately with far greater expectations than ever I had. The merchants in this country seem to have fallen into the same error with those of America of late years, that is, giving too unlimited a credit, and the consequences are similar—goods

selling at public sale for a trifle, and many failures for very large sums; but I am now far distant from these disagreeable scenes, and all the bustle of a busy world. I live retired in my humble cottage in the fertile plains of Indostan, with little to attend to but the tillage of my farm. I generally rise before the sun, and find sufficient amusement in looking after the labourers, whether in ploughing, sowing, or cutting down the crop, whilst the exercise I take is a sovereign preventative against the most of those disorders so common in this country among Europeans who live in luxury and ease. I cannot help sometimes, when sitting alone, to look back upon past times, and even then, notwithstanding all misfortunes, I feel a degree of satisfaction, and even pleasure, when I reflect seriously upon my conduct, for there are few, very few, of those past scenes in which I would wish to have acted otherwise than I did. You must excuse this long sermon when I inform you that I have been left alone here for near three months, and not a single reasonable (I had almost said human) creature to speak a word to. Mr Lennox is now returned from Calcutta, and I am at present engaged in sowing indigo, having about 300 acres of ground already ploughed for that purpose.

"Mr Lennox intends going home this next year, and our friend Mr Fairlie informs me that he expects it will be in his power then to be of some service to me. I shall patiently persevere in expectation of a smile from Fortune at last; and I am more anxious for it on your and my sisters' account than my own, for I have been so much out of the world lately that I begin to consider money of little or no value.

"I long to hear from Bogston and Jamaica, and hope your next letters will bring nothing but good news. I am so much of a philosopher that I do not believe anything in this world would make me unhappy but the hearing that my few friends were so. Adieu, my dear brother, yours affectionately. *P.S.*—I was just going to dispatch this letter when I received one from Mr John Gavin, dated 12th June last, with the agreeable accounts of your being all well. He informs me that Mrs Borland had got a son; that Babby was to take the name of Shedden in a few days; and that Miss Montgomerie[1] was to change her situation at the same time. I have not time at present to write any more letters, and this is to go by the last ship of the season. Congratulate them all in my name, and assure them of my best wishes for their happiness. Adieu."

Dr Borland's son, whose birth was announced to Mr Wilson, was named Robert Montgomery, for his uncle. More notice will be taken of him in the course of this narrative. In March this year (1788) Mrs Shedden had her first child, a daughter, who was named Janet, for her maternal grandmother.

It appeared that the bills which Mr Wilson had been induced to grant for his alleged loss in the Canada concern were given by James Wilson & Sons to their relative, Mr William Paterson, of Kilmarnock, in security of a claim held by him. They were not part of the funds belonging to the sequestrated estate. At the expiry of the first twelve months

[1] Jean, afterwards of Craighouse (see p. 76).

after the sequestration was awarded, a dividend should have been declared, but as nothing had been realised, the trustee declared there was no dividend. This did not augur well for the future productiveness of the estate.

The indigo planting did not succeed, and Mr Lennox and Mr Wilson mutually agreed to give it up. Mr Lennox took the whole loss arising from this undertaking upon himself. In November 1788 Mr Wilson went to Calcutta, and having agreed to go to Chandernagore (a French settlement on the River Hooghly, about twenty miles above Calcutta) on some business for Mr Lennox, he was there seized with a fever which confined him to bed for two months. On his recovery he went back to Calcutta for a short time, and returned to Luchipore in January 1789, with a view of getting into the business of making cloth. The accounts which were received of the state of the market for India goods in every part of Europe were so discouraging that the cloth manufacturing was abandoned. In the meantime, as misfortunes seldom come single, he was much annoyed at receiving advice of the old bills having been sent out to India by Mr Paterson for recovery. As the attempting to do any diligence on these bills must have been very injurious, Mr Wilson was obliged to remonstrate on this subject. It was obvious that no one would assist him with money if his funds were to be subject to Mr Paterson's diligence, and he had too keen a sense of honour to take any person's aid without explaining the liability he was under for these old claims. He proposed to give half of all he should gain at the end of

a certain number of years, and if this should not be agreed to, he was resolved not to involve anyone else in his misfortunes. He wrote fully on this subject to Mr Montgomery on 25th July 1789, and concluded thus:—"Adieu, my dear brother; let me hear from you as often as you conveniently can. To be assured of the welfare of you and my sisters is almost the only satisfaction I have in this part of the world. You cannot be happier than I wish you all."

The society of Beith at this period met with a severe loss in the death of Dr Robert Montgomerie of Craighouse, a man of considerable talents and acquirements, and who gave promise of a life of activity and usefulness. He died in August 1789, in the fortieth year of his age, unmarried, and was succeeded in his property by his only sister, Jean, who had married Mr Robert Montgomerie, agent at Irvine for the Paisley Banking Company.

Towards the end of the year Mr Wilson returned to Calcutta. He was a good deal troubled with fever and ague, but in the spring of 1790 this left him, and he got stouter and enjoyed better health. No new line of business had yet appeared for him. In a letter of 10th August he says it had been proposed that he should go to sea, so that his next letter might be dated from some port in Europe or America as likely as from India. In apologising to his sisters for not writing them, he says:—"They must not accuse me either of neglect or want of affection. There is not a day passes that they are not in my thoughts, and to be able to return and pass the eve of my life in my

native country and see them all happy is the utmost wish of my heart."

On 19th July this year a dividend of elevenpence in the pound was paid from the estate of James Wilson & Sons, fivepence per pound from the estate of James Wilson & Son, and threepence per pound from the estate of James Wilson, jun.

Mr Wilson wrote from Calcutta, on 15th November 1790, that nothing further had been proposed as to his going to sea, and that he still remained without any permanent employment. In a postscript he mentions his having witnessed the will of William Caldwell, a person from this part of the country who had lived for many years in Calcutta, and from penurious habits had amassed a considerable fortune. Mr Caldwell recovered from his illness, and returned to Scotland some years afterwards worth at least £15,000. He died in 1824, and was buried at Beith. He left considerable legacies to his nephew, Robert Gillies, watchmaker, and others. It would be foreign to our present purpose to introduce any further notice of Mr Caldwell here, though both Mr Wilson and Mr Montgomery took considerable interest in their correspondence about him and his relatives.

A painful subject now presses on us. For some time previous to this Dr and Mrs Borland had intimated their resolution of returning to Scotland, and bringing with them their two children. This intelligence caused much happiness to the families at Bogston and Morishill, and the joys of meeting with a much beloved sister were anticipated with great pleasure, which increased as the time approached. At

last they left Jamaica, on 4th June 1791, on board the *Mary-Ann*, Captain Innes. It was in a fine season of the year. They and the children were all in good health and in high spirits. Everything seemed favourable for their crossing the Atlantic with comfort. Mrs Borland was, however, in a condition unfavourable for females taking a sea voyage, especially if subject to sea-sickness. Mrs Borland was overtaken with the malady to a great extent. A severe and rapid fever, followed by a premature delivery, was the consequence, which in a few days terminated fatally, and on 24th June, at half-past 6 P.M., in lat. 33 N., long. 72.26 W., her body was committed to the mighty deep. When Dr Borland reached London, he addressed the following letter to Mr Montgomery:—"London, 25th July 1791.—My dear Sir,—How am I to relate the sorrowful tidings. Alas! my dear friend, I have lost my dear, my affectionate wife. Four tedious weeks have elapsed since she was committed to the deep. With what different prospects we left Jamaica on the 4th of June in the *Mary-Ann*—a good ship, the captain of our choice, a fine season. It pleased God to take her to Himself on 24th June. I have been attempting to give you the particulars, but find myself utterly unable to proceed. I must request you to communicate the melancholy account to our friends. How am I to appear before them without their beloved relative? What plans of happiness we had formed to sit down with our little ones in the midst of our friends. What short-sighted mortals! I can add no more now. When I can write with some composure, I will.

"I landed with the children at Deal on Saturday, and came yesterday to Mr Langland's house at Blackheath, where they are. I must beg to hear from you immediately, and to offer my affectionate respects to our friends.—I am, my dear Sir, your afflicted friend."

The receipt of this intelligence, as may well be conceived, occasioned great distress. The family at Bogston were looking for news every day of their sister's safe arrival, and a servant had been sent to wait the arrival of that post which brought the fatal tidings. Mr Montgomery wrote Dr Borland in course of post as follows:—"29th July.—My dear Sir,—Writing would only convey a faint idea of the distress of the families here and at Morishill when last night's post brought your letter of the 25th. How much we suffered on our own account, and how much these sufferings were enhanced on your account and on that of the poor dear children, we must leave you to conceive. Amidst these distresses it affords us some small comfort to reflect that you were along with her (our dear sister) during her sufferings, and that she was aboard the ship of the humane Captain Innes, to whose care and tenderness she acknowledged herself so much indebted in her passage out. This day I have been employed in the melancholy task of writing circular letters to her relatives and friends.

"I had not had a letter from you of a later date than the 3d of September; but that, with prior letters and the accounts we received from all quarters, informed us of your being to come home this season, and Captain Fairrie, only

the post before I got yours, wrote in answer to one from me that you were to come in the *Mary-Ann*. This induced me to send a servant to wait the arrival of the post last night. All our hopes were high, our prospects pleasant, and we were planning happy scenes. When your letter arrived, how were we cast down! Vain mortals! How futile are your schemes. 'Man may appoint, but God disappoints.'

"We all here are impatient till we hear again from you. We wish to know particulars. We wish to know when we are to see you with the children. Write by first post. I need not say what are the wishes of every one here towards you and the children. Forms are too trifling to be bandied between us, but I must beg you to remember me in a particular manner to Captain Innes, to whose humanity I am satisfied we are all much indebted upon this occasion. Make my compliments also acceptable to Mr and Mrs Hunter, and believe me to be, my dear Sir, your affectionate brother."

Dr Borland answered this letter in course of post, giving a minute account of poor Mrs Borland's sufferings, which have in substance been already stated, and it does not seem necessary to insert his letter. The friends of the family lost no time in sympathising with them on this bereavement. The letters preserved are fourteen in number, and are all creditable to the writers, and most respectful to the memory of the deceased, who seems to have been held in high estimation by her friends. The two following seem worthy of a place here. They are certainly worthy of an attentive perusal. The first is from the Reverend James Oliphant,

sometime minister in Kilmarnock, afterwards in Dunbarton, a man somewhat eccentric in character, but of strong and unaffected piety :—" Dear Sir,—I, and all this family, sincerely condole you and your friends upon the much lamented death of good Mrs Borland when returning home. Those who knew her best and longest will most bewail the loss of her to society ; but what must it be to her husband and dear little ones? These sad tidings must have been very shocking to you all, as you had no opportunity, perhaps, to hear previously of her illness. It was well, however, that the Doctor was with her, on her own account and that of the children. If our feelings could anything alleviate your distress, the burden might be lighter, but this will not do. The more amiable and useful relations and acquaintances are, the more severe is the trial of parting with them for ever, till we too are unclothed with body and conjoin kindred spirits. Whatever soothing considerations may in such cases be suggested by reason and philosophy, 'tis Christianity alone which affords the strongest consolations under every trial, and influences to a calm submission to the Divine will. May you and all friends experience on this occasion such influences from on high as to enable you to act that part becoming yourselves and your Christian profession. I suppose you may soon expect to see the young ones, and hear more fully from Dr Borland whatever you may incline to know. You have been long happy in your sisters and brother, and I hope much social bliss is still in reserve for you, but friends must part.

'Heaven gives us friends to bless the present scene,
Recalls them, to prepare us for the next.'

"That is true wisdom to remember our latter end—to act now such a part as becometh accountable creatures. But everything of this kind I leave to your own judicious and manly reflections. Mrs Oliphant and all my young folks join me in kindest compliments of condolence, are much obliged to you for your letter, a recent instance of the continuance of a long and uninterrupted friendship. Had I returned by Beith from Kilmarnock, I would have gratified myself, as usual, by visiting all at Bogston, and in going had promised a night at Mr M^cLellan's. My son is little better, little worse. He rides every day for his health. I ever am, dear Sir, your assured friend and obed. humble servant, JAS. OLIPHANT. Dumbarton, 2d August 1791."

The other is from their relative the Rev. Dr Robert Findlay of Glasgow, and is as follows:—"Dear Sir,—I most sincerely sympathise with you and your sisters on the mournful account of Mrs Borland's death which your letter, delivered by my son, brought me this day. It is easy to see that different circumstances, which natural affection will at once suggest and incline you to dwell upon, render this event more afflictive. May God sanctify it to you all and support you under it! It becomes all, on the loss of the nearest relatives, to study submission, convinced that it is the allotment of a wise and righteous Providence. But I know no consideration so effectual to moderate our sorrow on such breaches as the hope that our friends are gone

to a happy state, from our knowledge that they have lived here a religious and holy life. Mrs Findlay and son join in tender condolence with you all on this melancholy occasion. I am, dear Sir, your most obedient servant, ROBERT FINDLAY. Easterhill, August 2, 1791."

The anticipated joys of the family at Bogston had been partaken by Mr Wilson, though far removed from all personal participation of them. On 29th December that year (1791) he writes acknowledging receipt of letters from Mr Montgomery and his sisters, and says :—"I have also letters from Mr and Mrs Borland dated in August 1790. By this time I hope their family is settled happily among you, and that you are all enjoying yourselves in friendly mirth at this festive season of the year." In this letter he goes on to say :—"My last letter to you was dated in March or April. Since that time I have been constantly in Calcutta, in good health, but doing nothing. My friend Mr Fairlie has it in his power. I believe he is very willing and would be very happy to assist me, but that is a very strong reason with me for not entering into any kind of business, whilst my old bills are liable to be put in force against me. Why the holders of these bills should keep them up so close and not wish to make a settlement with me they know best; but I can conceive no other reason than that they intend taking the advantage of distressing me whilst I have other people's property in my possession, in hopes of getting part of it. This I think my duty, and it shall be my study, to prevent. I am hitherto unconscious of having wronged any man in business, and I have received

too much inward satisfaction on reviewing my past conduct not to continue the same line during the rest of my life. The journey through this world is not so long but I shall get through it somehow or other. The holders of my bills may prevent my ever returning to my native country. This would be a real injury, and the only one they can do me. They are now taking an effectual method to accomplish it, by preventing my entering into business; but if they would only look a little before them, they must observe that they are really injuring themselves."

The intelligence of Mrs Borland's death at length reached Mr Wilson, who partook of the sorrow this event had occasioned to those friends he loved so dearly.[1]

Mr Paterson, who held the old bills on Mr Wilson, having died, the tutor for his son agreed to supersede all diligence against Mr Wilson for seven years. This was so far well, but Mr Wilson received the intelligence of this with some mistrust. The same thing had been promised him previously and the promise not exactly kept, and he seemed quite resolved to enter into no sort of business with the capital of other people unless he was sure of being unmolested on the score of these old bills. On 20th March 1792, he wrote that the prospect of affairs in India was improving; that Lord Cornwallis had brought the war to a favourable termination; that the East India Company's Charter being about to expire, it was hoped the monopoly would not be

[1] In this letter from Bogston of 22nd February 1792, the girl's age is mentioned as being $6\frac{1}{2}$ and the boy's as $3\frac{1}{2}$.

renewed, and if so, that there would be few British subjects in India who wished to be employed that would have any occasion to remain idle. The Government at home renewed the Charter, however, and in a letter of 30th November 1793, Mr Wilson writes :—"The Company's Charter being renewed will be a disappointment to many, and be the means of encouraging Americans and other foreigners in this country to the prejudice of British subjects. The country is, however, flourishing at present, and the trade of it from one port to another in India is increasing fast. Whilst Europe seems to be engaged in all the horrors of civil war, we live here in profound peace, except now and then a *sans culotte* privateer making her appearance to alarm the underwriters."

In July of this year (1792) Dr Borland married . . . . M'Clure, daughter of Mr Gilbert M'Clure of Ayr. He lost his daughter Euphemia, who died of fever at Kilmarnock on 1st September. In a letter to Mr Wilson, written on 24th December following, Bogston says :—"She was the finest child I ever saw ; had a striking resemblance of her mother, insomuch that we considered her as in some degree our sister restored,—but we ought not to set our hearts too much upon anything in this world." Of Robert Borland he says :—"He is a fine boy, and I hope will be spared." Another birth, which for the sake of a future part of this narrative cannot be overlooked, is thus mentioned :—"The Morishill family are all well. Babby has now a fourth child, a daughter about four weeks old, named Margaret, for Mr Shedden's mother, who died about three weeks ago."

Nothing of any consequence took place in the relative position of the interesting subjects of our narrative for a considerable period. Mr Wilson wrote, in January 1796, that he was still unemployed, while almost all his countrymen were busy and making money. He takes notice of the increasing business of his friend Mr Fairlie, who had several ships in his employ in the London trade, this privilege having been conceded by the Company. He mentions his friends John and Mungo Gilmore as being in command of two fine ships of 700 tons burthen each.

On 4th November 1797, Mr Wilson acknowledges receipt of his brother's letter, advising him of the unsuccessful result of the Warrix plea, which has been anticipated in a previous part of this section. Mr Wilson was not disappointed, as he had not allowed himself to build any hopes of success. The dawn of the better days was beginning to open. He remitted £250 to pay the expenses of this lawsuit, and gave his brother a commission to try and make a settlement of the old claims against him, which had so long hung as a millstone round his neck. He says that if a settlement can be accomplished the money is to be advanced by Mr Fairlie, who is very desirous to aid him in getting into business. Mr Montgomery did all he could to accomplish this, but there were so many obstacles in the way that it was found impossible to manage it until Mr Paterson's son, for whose behoof the bills were held by trustees, should arrive at majority, and be able to negotiate for himself.

At length Mr Wilson had it in his power to announce

that he was to enter into business. On 20th June 1798, he writes his brother :—"I have now to inform you that George Foreman, John Gilmore, and myself have entered into partnership, and commenced our operations last month under the firm of G. Foreman & Coy. We are to carry on the business of ship building and repairing, and I have no doubt but we will succeed if I am not molested from home; but if any thing of that kind takes place, my engagements are to relinquish all concern in the business. I shall, therefore, be very anxious until I get an answer to the letters I wrote you in November, which I hope will be favourable for the sake of all concerned. I suppose you must have received my letters before this time. I may, therefore, expect answers by the ships of this season. Our head carpenter is a Mr Patterson from Saltcoats, who appears to be an industrious, clever fellow."

On 6th September 1799, Mr Wilson writes :—"I am happy to inform you that I have very little time to spare from business, which keeps me fully employed from sunrise till I am ready for bed again.

"We have just finished a brick dock, which will cost us about £8000 sterling. We have a very fine ship ready to launch of about £20,000 value, and a small one on the stocks. All these, with a stock of materials for carrying on the business, require large sums of money, for a great part of which we pay a heavy interest of 15 to 18 per cent. per annum, which is a great drawback upon us at present. We are seldom, however, without ships under repair, and

have now an Indiaman waiting to go into dock, so that I have little doubt of succeeding if the trade of this country is encouraged by Government."

In October 1799 Mr Foreman died, and the affairs having been wound up and settled, Mr Gilmore and Mr Wilson took the stock on hand at a valuation, and entered into a new contract for the same business under the firm of John Gilmore & Coy. The business had largely increased; their cash transactions for the last year of the old concern amounted to £75,000.

Mr Wilson now intimated to Mr Montgomery his intention of remitting some money for behoof of his sisters. The moment he had this in his power, he fulfilled a duty which was to him a source of great delight.

On 10th February 1801, Mr Wilson writes:—"The honours and emoluments conferred on the Governor-General after the capture of Seringapatam appear to have puffed him up with nothing but vanity and pride. He is certainly out of his senses, for he has launched forth into such extravagant expenditure of the public treasure that public credit is gone, and with it, of course, all private credit. You may easily suppose that we must suffer in the general distress, and not a little, having a stock on hand amounting to £50,000 or £60,000 sterling.

"We have hitherto been able to go on with our business, and have just launched a very fine ship of about 800 tons measurement to sail in all this month for England; but we are almost at a stand for want of money, and the prospect

before us by no means a very agreeable one, unless some sudden change takes place in the management of public affairs in India, or a peace in Europe, which I see little prospect of."

In July he writes of the continued dullness of trade and scarcity of money, and the consequent high rate of interest, it being often at 24 per cent. per annum. In concluding this letter, he says to his brother that he wishes to remit some money for his sisters, "and whatever I can possibly spare from business it is my inclination, and I shall ever consider it as my duty, to remit to you, as a small tribute of gratitude for the affectionate attention you have ever paid to the whole family, and I shall esteem myself happy indeed to have it in my power to contribute towards their comfort."

His next is dated 26th November, in the same year, in which he remits a bill of exchange for £90 for behoof of his sisters. He says:—"We have been rather unfortunate this last season in our shipping concerns, a valuable ship, loaded with timber, having been captured; and we have just received accounts of another, bound to the Red Sea in Government service, being lost on the coast of Africa. Although these ships were fully insured, and we recover their value, I have to regret their loss, as the profits would have been considerable had they succeeded in completing their voyages. It would have enabled me, with ease, to remit the money for any composition you may have made, without borrowing. I am in good credit here, however, and

will not lose a moment in borrowing the sum requisite for that purpose, even at the enormous interest of 24 per cent. per ann. Our business continues to keep me fully employed. I am happy, however, in having a good assistant in Mr Hunter, a grandson of Dr Fleming's,[1] who has been now three years in our office, and a more valuable young man for every good quality is not to be met with in India."[2]

On 18th July 1802 he writes:—"Our prospects are not very flattering at present, as the Court of Directors appear to be doing everything in their power to destroy the business of shipbuilding in this country. The Legislature, however, will certainly interfere, and prevent them acting upon the narrow jealous principles of a set of petty pedlars, as it is evidently for the advantage of the nation at large to encourage the trade of this country with England, and their own revenues must be materially affected." He makes a further remittance and says:—"To know that you and my sisters are living comfortably, and to be enabled to return and pass a few years among you, is the utmost ambition of your affectionate brother."

He had again occasion to complain of the injurious effects of the narrow policy of the Court of Directors. On 14th February 1803 he writes:—"Our prospects are not more flattering than when I last wrote you. We have now two new ships on our hands; one of them, of the value of £20,000, has been thrown on our hands in consequence of not being permitted to go to Europe, and distresses us very much,

[1] Rev. Dr Fleming of Kilmalcolm. [2] See Postscript to Memoir.

as we have no other employment for them, and the high interest we are obliged to pay for those blocks makes us feel it severely. The Court of Directors of the India Company seems determined to ruin all the private merchants in India, and I am sorry to observe that they have succeeded too well in deceiving His Majesty's Ministers and Parliament. All that the merchants of this country required, was permission to export their goods to London in British built ships on the best terms of freight they could procure, which request they considered so reasonable as to leave them no doubts of its being complied with. They have, however, been disappointed, and are now left to the mercy of the Company, who show every inclination to distress them, and particularly the owners of ships. The consequence follows that a number of fine ships must be laid up, and large quantities of goods sent to France and other countries in foreign ships which would have been shipped for London in British bottoms. The Legislature will find, when I am afraid it will be too late to apply a remedy, that the Court of Directors have completely swindled them, and their only motive for doing so appears to be a fear of losing their patronage, which I believe they have a greater regard for than either the Company's or their country's interest."

The breaking out of the war with France is noticed both by Mr Montgomery and Mr Wilson. Mr M. writes of the great mercantile distress that prevailed in this country, and of the numerous bankruptcies which had taken place. Mr Wilson says, if the war affect the Indian Company *only*,

it will give much satisfaction, so much were the opinions of the British merchants against them at Calcutta for their narrow and illiberal conduct.

In the spring of 1805 Mr Wilson writes still of the depressed state of trade, and says that his prospects of being able to return to his native country are not near. He makes another remittance, and concludes—"Let me know that you and my sisters are happy and contented, and I shall rest tolerably contented with my lot in banishment."

Mr Shedden's eldest son Robert being now about 16, his thoughts were turned towards going out to India, but in what capacity it was not altogether fixed. Mrs Shedden having written her brother on this subject, Mr Wilson takes notice of it in the following terms:—"26th October 1805.—My sister, Mrs Shedden, mentions in her letters that her eldest son wished to come out to this country. Nothing could give me greater pleasure than doing everything in my power to serve him should such an event take place. The prospects, however, for young men out of the Company's service are not very flattering. This country has, however, immense resources, and it is to be hoped the present narrow-minded system adopted by our Rulers cannot always continue."

The next letter is dated 20th February 1807, in which Mr Wilson apologises for his silence. He makes a remittance of £200, and recommends that Robert Shedden should go to India as a cadet in the Company's service.

On 10th March this year, Mr Montgomery wrote

Mr Wilson of a proposed change in the family at Morishill. He expressed himself thus :—"Your niece, Janet Shedden, who is grown up to be a very fine young woman, and, what is better, a very good and dutiful daughter, has at present a very good offer of marriage. A Mr James Adam, originally of Lochwinnoch, where he has a small property, and bred a writer, has lately been appointed factor on the great estate belonging to Miss Drummond of Perth, with a salary of £400 per annum and perquisites. This gentleman has within these eight days written to her father upon the subject. We are all acquainted with Mr Adam, and from our knowledge of him think that there can be little doubt of his retaining his place, in which case there can be no objection on the part of Janet's relations to the match. Your two nephews, Robert and Alexander Shedden, are just returned from Kilmarnock, where they have been for more than a year for the benefit of scientific education, in which I think they have made some proficiency, particularly Robert, who has been in part educated with a view to a seafaring life, to which he has sometimes expressed a desire, but he would gladly embrace an opportunity of engaging in any creditable business. I wish we could get him sent out to you. He is one of the finest boys ever I saw. Sandy may probably be sent back to Kilmarnock to complete his education. He shows a wonderful taste for drawing. This appeared even before he could write."

It is not out of place here to mention that Mr Adam's

marriage took place on 7th August this year, and that he was instrumental, through his interest with the family of Perth, in procuring a cadetship for Robert Shedden on the Madras Establishment. Robert left Morishill in April 1808, when his father accompanied him to London. It would have been more gratifying had his appointment been to Bengal, but this had been overlooked in getting the transaction arranged at the India House. Poor Robert's outset was very hard. The ship *Traverse*, in which he sailed, was wrecked in the Bay of Bengal, and he made a narrow escape with nothing but the clothes on his back. The ship and cargo were wholly lost. Robert found his way to his uncle, at whose hospitable house he met with—"Peace and repose, a Briton and a friend."[1]

After remaining some time with Mr Wilson, Robert joined his regiment, the 8th Native Infantry, and proved a most correct and attentive officer.

His brother Alexander was, in 1808, apprenticed with his uncle, Professor James Wilson, surgeon in London, where he remained for five years. He made great proficiency in his professional studies, particularly as an anatomist, and after his apprenticeship was finished, Professor Wilson procured him an appointment as an assistant surgeon in the East India Company's service on the Madras Establishment. He went out to India in January 1814.

We resume our notice of Mr Wilson's correspondence:—On 12th January 1810, he wrote Mr Montgomery intimating

[1] Campbell, "Pleasures of Hope," Part I.

the departure of his friends Mr William Fairlie and Mr Allan Gilmore, who returned to England at this time, and the loss of whose society he regretted much. He adds:—"I may safely say that there never was a man left India whose departure will be so generally felt and regretted, both by Europeans and natives, as William Fairlie's. May he long enjoy himself among his friends in his native land." In this letter he mentions that his company, in connection with some other friends, had sent home the ship *Fort William*, laden with upwards of 20,000 cwts. of cotton. It did not bring a very favourable price, but there being a demand for shipping, the Government took the *Fort William* into the public service at £3000 a month, which made up for former losses by her.

In a letter of 4th March 1811, Mr Wilson states this, and then concludes:—"I have my time so much taken up with business that my sisters, I hope, will not consider it any neglect of them if I do not write long letters. They may rest assured that I am anxious to get away from this bustling, busy life to a snug retirement. I have no ambition to return to my native country as a Nabob to set up fine carriages, and have a crowd of servants. A small house, country fare, and a servant or two would perfectly satisfy me, and this once secured, I should lose no time in flying towards it. In the meantime, I am so much of a philosopher as not to repine at my situation. Conscious of using my best endeavours to do my duty, I can lay my head upon my pillow and sleep very sound after the fatigues of the day."

On 2nd May 1811, he wrote a short letter, with a remittance of £300 for the use of his sisters. He said it was part of the profits arising from some shares he held in an Insurance office, and could not be appropriated to a better purpose.

On 12th September following he remitted, in three bills of exchange, £512 for his sisters, and on 24th April 1812, he made another remittance of £600 for the same purpose. In this letter he says:—"I have just entered into an engagement to build a ship of 1250 tons for the Company's China trade, which will give me full employment for, at least, twelve months. At the close of this period, however, I shall endeavour to make some arrangements so as to enable me to return to my native country, which I am now very anxious to do, and no exertions on my part shall be wanting to accomplish this object. I hope still to pass a few of my days quietly among you."

On 31st March 1813, Mr Wilson had at last the long-wished-for satisfaction of intimating to his friends that he had settled with Mr William Paterson for the old Canada bills. Mr Paterson had gone to India as a cadet, and was in the Company's service in Bengal. He agreed to take 16,000 rupees (or £2000 sterling) for the bills, and this sum being paid him, he acquitted Mr Wilson of all further claims. Mr Wilson was thus relieved of all anxiety, and got rid of a burden which had been hanging on him for nearly thirty years. This intelligence was received with unmingled satisfaction by his friends at home, who were now

warranted in looking forward to the happy time when he should return to the bosom of their society.

On 6th December 1813, Mr Wilson wrote Mr Montgomery with the following pleasing intelligence:—"I am now happy to inform you that I have so far arranged my concerns here that I have taken my passage in the new ship *Vansittart*, which we launched on the 9th of last month, and is expected to sail about the end of January. I may, therefore, flatter myself with the hopes of seeing you all once more about the end of summer, a blessing I have often despaired of ever being able to accomplish.

"You must not expect to meet a rich Nabob, but a truly affectionate brother, who has never had any desire to amass wealth in order to enjoy what are called the luxuries of life, but whose sole ambition has been to be enabled to pass the eve of life comfortably among his friends in his native land, and this I flatter myself I have now the means of accomplishing. Though my income will not be great, it has not been acquired by either dishonesty or dishonourable means, and I shall be able to enjoy it with a safe conscience. God bless you all."

Mr Wilson prepared for his departure, and when he went on board the *Vansittart* he carried with him the good wishes of all who knew him. His Calcutta friends parted from him with great regret.

The good ship *Vansittart* had a pleasant voyage, and landed her passengers safe in old England on 6th August 1814. It may well be believed that the following letter

was received at Bogston with great satisfaction :—"My dear Brother,—Thank God I am once more returned to this wonderful country in good health. I landed at Brighton on Saturday morning, where I found our friends Allan Gilmore and Major Davidson, who detained me there two days. James Wilson informs me you were all well a month ago, and I hope to find you so about the end of this month. I shall leave this monster of a town as soon as I possibly can, but I have a little business to transact, and will probably be detained for two or three weeks. Let me hear from you as soon as possible. God bless you all. Your sincerely affectionate brother, W. WILSON. London, 10th August 1814."

Mr Montgomery and Miss Jenny immediately wrote welcoming the stranger, and expressing a desire that he should lose no time in coming to them. He left London on 5th September in company with Mr and Mrs Kelso, who had been fellow-passengers from India. Their family were with them, and the party travelled slowly, but the journey was accomplished,—and on the 13th Mr Wilson joined his friends, from whom he had been separated for nearly twenty-nine years. The happy days of former intercourse were recalled, and tears of joy were mingled with the sweetest affection for one who had shown himself so worthy of their esteem and love. Such a meeting is one of the purest pleasures which mortals are permitted to enjoy.

> And when from the friends of my heart long divided,
> The fond expectation with joy how replete,
> That from far distant regions, by Providence guided,
> To-morrow will see us most happily meet.

WILLIAM WILSON OF CRUMMOCK.

SECTION FIFTH.

MR WILSON'S SETTLING AT CRUMMOCK, HIS DEATH, AND CHARACTER, &c., &c.

(1814-1836).

It becomes in some degree necessary that I now introduce myself, personally, into this narrative. I was born in Beith on 29th July 1788. My father was then agent for the silk manufacturing house of Messrs Fulton & Co. of Paisley, and held a branch of the Paisley Bank—the first agency of the kind in Beith. My mother was eldest daughter of William Wilson of Bourtrees,[1] in the parish of Lochwinnoch. They had both been previously married, and each had a son and daughter of their former marriage alive. I was educated at the Parish school of Beith, and though it was talked of at one time to send me to College, this was not done, so that I owe to the parochial school all the scholastic learning I ever received. As a necessary part of education, I was sent for two months to learn to dance—an accomplishment which some wise man has said is the first thing that inspires a boy with manly ideas. I there became attached to Margaret Shedden, the second daughter of Mr Shedden of Morishill, and whose birth, as has been noticed, was announced by Mr Montgomery to Mr Wilson in his letter of December 1792, quoted at p. 85. Of course it is difficult

[1] See Appendix IV.

to tell why, but certain it is that she and I became fonder of each other than boys and girls of our age generally are. No reel or country dance went off so merrily as when we were partners, and on the ball night she was my *ticketed* companion. I recollect that the heads of families came to see this display (which to people advanced in life is always a pleasing sight), and after what are called the *high dances*, and hornpipes were over, they adjourned to the neighbouring tavern, where they had a bowl of toddy. The youngsters were admitted, but as room was scarce I sat down on a little stool, and my partner sat on my knee. We were the only pair that did so, and it did not escape the notice of the seniors. After the happy months of the dancing school were over, I went occasionally to Morishill on the afternoon of the Saturday, my chief errand being to see Margaret. This came, however, to an end. I went to my apprenticeship with William Dunn, writer, in Beith, in September 1803, and we had no meetings or intercourse for a long time. I went to Edinburgh on my professional education in November 1808, returned in the spring of 1810, and entered into partnership with my former master. I was to have had a third part of the profits for the first four or five years, and afterwards one-half. There was, at the time of my commencing, a great arrear of good business, which I brought up with all the enthusiasm of a young beginner, and the first year's balance-sheet showed a profit of upwards of £800. But I found Mr Dunn so much in debt with the clients, that all the good accounts were forestalled, and, instead of living com-

JAMES DOBIE OF BEITH.

MRS. DOBIE AND HER DAUGHTER BARBARA.

fortably, I was getting into debt. I could bring him to no arrangement of the affairs. I became involved in his bill transactions, and found myself so uncomfortable that I broke the connection, and began business for myself in December 1812. One of my first employers was Mr Montgomery, who continued a steady friend through my future career. I was necessarily brought into connection with him and the Morishill family, and in 1811 had been frequently visiting at Morishill. The flame of youthful love was easily rekindled, and it was not long till my old sweetheart and I mutually pledged to share each other's joys and sorrows for life, when the time should arrive that it would be prudent for us to marry. I had reason to be proud of this. I was not only preferred to other suitors of more *weight* (wealth I had none), but it was difficult to say *when* the time might come that I would be justified in taking her away from her father's comfortable home. That time did come, however, as will be afterwards seen.

In the meantime I became a constant visitor at Morishill. My errand was no longer a secret, and I gradually partook of all the feelings of the family as much as if I had been a member of it. I recollect well when Mr Wilson's letters came announcing his intention of leaving India that the intelligence caused great joy in the domestic circle, and of this I was not the least sharer. I had heard so much of him that I had formed a high opinion of his character, and when at last he intimated that he had taken his passage on board the *Vansittart*, I watched the London newspapers for tidings

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of the ship on her voyage with as much eagerness as if my all depended on her safe arrival. The good ship was announced as safe off land, and I was at the post office every day enquiring for his letter. In due time the letter came, as has been previously detailed, and it was not long till the worthy writer of it made his appearance. The day after his arrival at Bogston, Mr Montgomery and he called at my writing office. Mr Wilson had been told of the interest I had taken in the intelligence of his arrival, and alluded to it, and received me with great kindness. I was at that time taking Brewster's *Encyclopædia* in numbers, and had just got a part of it from Glasgow, with a portrait of Lord Byron, whose fame was then attracting notice. I showed them to Bogston, and Mr Wilson looked at them also. He took out a pair of spectacles and asked Bogston to try them, which he did, and said, "These fit me remarkably well." "Then you'll keep them," said Mr Wilson. "But that is depriving you of them." "Not at all; I bought them for you." Thus in this first interview did I witness Mr Wilson *give away* something—a graceful act which during his whole life he had pleasure in performing; and this was the forerunner of many such, as will afterwards appear.

The domestic society into which Mr Wilson was received consisted of his brother, Mr Montgomery, who was then in his seventy-seventh year, but remarkably firm, and enjoying life as much as ever; Miss Wilson, his sister, who was two years younger; and Miss Jenny, who was in her fifty-fourth year. They lived at Bogston. Mr Montgomery kept part

of his ground in his own hand, had several cows, two women-servants, and an old man-servant (Robin Morris), who had been in his service for thirty years.

At Morishill Mr Shedden's family lived, consisting of himself, Mrs Shedden, their eldest son Robert (who was home from India on leave of absence), and Margaret and Elizabeth, their two unmarried daughters. Prior to Mr Wilson's return, Mr Adam had involved himself in a great speculation in land. He had bought property to the amount of seventy thousand pounds, without having realised any money for the payment of it. He commenced a most extravagant style of improvement, and his attention was so much engrossed with these affairs that he was obliged to give up his charge of the Perth estate. He was living at Pitkellany, near Drummond Castle, at the time Mr Wilson arrived in Scotland, but in the following spring he brought his family to Garpel, near Lochwinnoch.

Dr Borland was dead. He left his widow, by whom he had had two children, but both of them had died in infancy. His only son Robert, of whom we have previously spoken, had just finished his apprenticeship to a Writer to the Signet. On his father's death he gave up his profession, considering himself able to live on the fortune his father had left. This, however, proved much less than he had anticipated, and he was ultimately much disappointed in the views of independence he had formed too prematurely. He was a tall, handsome man, and a great favourite of his uncle, Mr Montgomery.

The society in the parish of Beith was limited, but very respectable. Dr Patrick of Trearne was then on the Medical Staff in England, and resident at Beverly, in Yorkshire, but in May 1815 he came to Grangehill, where he lived for some years.[1] His brother, Mr William Patrick, a well-employed Writer to the Signet, lived chiefly in Edinburgh. Their sisters kept house at Trearne. Miss Patrick was a clever, intelligent person, took a great interest in promoting the comfort of her friends, and was deservedly held in high estimation. Her sister, Miss Betty, was more retired in her habits, but of mild and gentle disposition. This family and the family at Bogston had long been in great friendship, which had been handed down to both from bygone generations.

Mr John Shedden of Muirston and his only daughter, Miss Agatha, lived together. Mrs Shedden, an amiable and most worthy woman, died in 1809. Three of their sons died after reaching manhood. The youngest had gone to Jamaica, and the eldest survivor, John, was a merchant and underwriter in London in connection with his friends.

The society was very friendly. There was no attempt at show or unnecessary expense, and Mr Wilson was quite satisfied to settle down among them and to spend the remainder of his days in peace and comfort. From what has been unfolded of his character, it may safely be concluded that he had never any desire to be *rich*. How true it is that a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of those things

[1] Prior to the building of his new mansion at Trearne.

he possesses. Health, peace, and competence are the true ingredients of external happiness. Though Mr Wilson was not what the world would call rich, he had a most comfortable independence. He retired from his business in Calcutta with a lac of rupees, or £12,500. One-half of this he left in the hands of the company, the other he brought home in bills of exchange, and lodged it in an account current with his friends Messrs Fairlie, Bonham & Co. of London. The interest allowed by the company in Calcutta was 8 per cent. per annum, payable by bills on London at twelve months date. The mercantile interest in London was 4 per cent. This gave an annual income of £720. Besides this, Mr Wilson drew, after his return, several shares of the profits of an insurance company in Calcutta, which yielded handsome dividends.[1]

Mr Wilson spent some time in visiting his friends in different parts of Ayrshire. As he wished to take up house, he looked out for a place where he could set himself down in the neighbourhood of Bogston. Mr Adam had bought the farm of Netherhouses, which lies on the west side of the road to Lochwinnoch, and in that parish. As it afforded one or two good situations for a house, and was within four miles of Bogston, it was proposed that Mr Wilson should purchase it. This he accordingly did. The transaction was reduced to writing, and Mr Wilson gave Mr Adam an order for £3000 to account of the price on the house of Fairlie, Bonham & Co., which was duly honoured. On second thoughts this place was not considered a very desirable

[1] See Postscript to Memoir.

situation for Mr Wilson, and the delay and expense of building made him hesitate as to going on with this plan. In the meantime a small mansion-house, garden, and field, part of the lands of Crummock, at the east end of the town of Beith, were offered for sale. This property belonged to Mr Robert Kerr, son of Dr James Kerr of Crummock, who had been a surgeon, and died in the East Indies. Crummock had belonged to this family for near two hundred years. It had been all feued out except the part now for sale, on which Mr Kerr had set down a small, comfortable dwelling-house and offices. He married Ann, second daughter of James Shedden of Windyhouse, and lived there for some years; but having changed his purpose, he removed to Portobello in 1809, and commenced practice as a surgeon. As he had no intention of returning to Beith, he offered the house and premises at Crummock for sale. This was a more eligible situation for Mr Wilson than Netherhouses, and it was more satisfactory to his friends that he should prefer Crummock. He bought this place from Mr Kerr for £1450, and got possession at May 1815. That summer was occupied in enlarging the house and putting it into a comfortable state of repair. Mr Adam agreed to take back Netherhouses, and Mr Wilson to renounce his bargain. This was done, but there was no repetition of the sum Mr Wilson had advanced. His first transaction was thus a recommencement of his old risks and losses.

Early in 1815 Robert Shedden returned to India. He was accompanied to London by his uncle, who paid his passage to India, and got him to sit for his portrait in

ROBERT SHEDDEN, H.E.I.C.S.

miniature, which Mr Wilson brought down as a present to Mrs Shedden.

In addition to the property purchased from Mr Kerr, Mr Wilson bought an adjoining field from Andrew Gibson, baker in Beith, at the price of £400. On this there stood a barn and washing-house, which he removed. He divided the two fields with a stone wall, and laid both down in pasture grass for his cows. After he took possession of the house his sister Miss Jenny lived with him, and took charge of his household affairs. He kept a horse and gig, a man-servant, two female servants, and a gardener. Everything about his house was plain, neat, and substantial. There was nothing he disliked so much as *show*, which is so often a substitute for comfort.

On 18th December this year my marriage took place. We took up house in a small mansion in Townhead, which had been occupied by Mr William Kerr of the Gate-end family. I had bought some of his furniture privately, and gradually acquired more, guarding against everything like extravagance. In this small abode we enjoyed peace and comfort. Our two eldest sons were born in it, and we were as happy as many who had larger houses and more external grandeur.

On 9th January 1816, Mr Wilson invited a party of his friends to his house-heating at Crummock. It was a merry meeting, but when it is now viewed from Mount Retrospect it is painful to think how few of that cheerful party survive.

Nothing remarkable occurred for sometime after Mr Wilson's settling at Crummock. Mr Montgomery visited him at least once every week, but as he had a strong attachment to his own bed, he almost invariably walked home in the evening. This he continued to do for a long time afterwards, as he enjoyed good health and was in full activity of body and mind. The time passed pleasantly on, and Mr Wilson was in the enjoyment of excellent health. He soon showed a desire to be useful to the neighbourhood. The old Courthouse of Beith, which stood in the Whang,[1] had long been in a state of complete disrepair. The lower part of it was occupied as a stable, and a large dunghill stood in front of it upon the public street. Several attempts had been made to raise subscriptions for rebuilding it, but they had failed. The state of the building attracted Mr Wilson's notice, and he resolved to aid in the removing of this disgrace from the town. He got a subscription paper prepared and commenced it by putting himself down for 30 guineas. He got his brother to give 20 and Mr Shedden 10. Dr and Mr Patrick gave handsomely, and so did the neighbouring Justices, and many non-resident heritors and others connected with the place. Mr Wilson went personally to the principal shopkeepers, who all subscribed, and the plan became very popular. A meeting of subscribers was held, and it was resolved to go on with the building without delay. The house was to be of two storeys—the upper to form a hall to be used as a Court room

[1] Now called Eglinton Street.

for the Justices, for public meetings, and as a news-room; the lower to consist of shops, the rents of which were to keep the fabric in repair, and the surplus to go for some public purpose in the town. A lock-up for confining delinquents was a necessary adjunct. The subscriptions were not sufficient for finishing the whole undertaking, but were nearly so, and it was hoped further subscriptions would be afterwards procured. The foundation stone of the building was laid by Mr Wilson with Masonic honour, and amid a great assemblage of people on 22nd May 1817. A large party of the subscribers dined in the inn, and much respect paid to Mr Wilson, to whose exertions the public was indebted for the success of the undertaking. He was elected Preses of the Committee of Management, which was annually renewed during his life. He took an interest in the affairs of the Institution, and at a subsequent period added £32 to his subscription to get the remaining debt paid off. He also gave a marble mantelpiece to the hall, and on the whole contributed £80 to this public undertaking, which has proved highly beneficial as well as ornamental to the town.

Towards the close of this year Mrs Shedden showed symptoms of declining health. She had received an injury on the left side in stepping from a gig, and though there was no external appearance of bruise, she felt an inward pain, which never left her. It gradually increased, and her general health was seriously affected. In January (1818) she became worse, was confined to her room, and symptoms soon alarmed

her family and began to prepare them for the worst. On 11th February she had a shock of palsy, which partially deprived her of the power of motion and of speech. Mr Montgomery and Mr Wilson went to Morishill and took farewell of her in the most kind and affectionate manner. "This is a sad scene," said Bogston to me when he came out of her bedroom wiping his eyes. The patient sufferer retained her faculties to the last, and was quite sensible of the kind and unremitting attentions of her daughters, who were all around her. She was calm and resigned, and aware of her approaching dissolution. On the morning of Sabbath the 22nd of February I witnessed a most affecting scene. Her power of speech was gone, but she took hold of Mr Shedden's hand, slowly lifted it to her lips, and thus silently bade him farewell. She did the same to each of her daughters successively. The scene was overwhelmingly distressful. The kindest of wives and most affectionate of mothers, even in the last extremity of life, was aware of their distress and of their love, and thus silently expressed her regard for them. She gradually sunk after this, and died next morning. She was a most excellent person, devoted to her duty in all respects, and in every department most exemplary.

At Whitsunday this year I purchased from Mrs Montgomerie of Craighouse the house in Strand, which had belonged to Mrs Wilson of Barrodger, as mentioned on page 1. It was an eligible situation for me, both as a residence and for business. Mr Wilson told me he would assist me in paying it. The price was £320, and he called

and gave me £200, adding, "When you make your repairs, let me know what they are to cost."

The year 1819 opened adversely for Mr Adam. His extravagance had exhausted itself, and he could no longer contrive the means of carrying it on. The consequence was that he was under the necessity of conveying his whole property to a trustee for behoof of his creditors, and though from the high valuation he made of all his purchases and improvements he showed a reversion in figures, it ended in a most ruinous loss, in which Mr Wilson was made in the end a large partaker. The trust-deed was executed on 1st February. The debts enumerated in it were upwards of £50,000, and it is believed the amount was afterwards increased to £20,000 more.

This year (1819) brought three changes in our domestic society. On the 10th of February my father died, aged seventy-five. He was a worthy, good man, and held in much respect by all classes in the parish. On the 14th, as if to console me for the loss, my son John Shedden was born. In June, Elizabeth Shedden was married to Mr William Barr, writer, in Paisley, a man of respectable talents and in very good practice.

I ought to have mentioned that in 1817 my mother's eldest brother, Dr Robert Wilson, returned from India, where he had been for upwards of thirty years. He resided for many years at Lucknow, and had been surgeon to the Princes of Oude, and held in high estimation by them. In the service of the East India Company he had risen

to the rank of Superintendent Surgeon. He was a tall, fine looking man, of commanding aspect, having much the air and manner of a gentleman, and had retired from India with a considerable fortune. He paid frequent visits to Beith, and soon became acquainted with Mr Wilson and his friends.

It has been omitted to mention in its proper place that Robert Borland married, in 1815, Miss Charlotte Roche, daughter of Mr Roche of Youghall. They met at Cheltenham, and an attachment formed which ended in marriage. Their union did not prove happy. One cause, and that not a remote one, was Mr Borland's disappointed views as to his own fortune. His father's property turned out much less valuable than had been reckoned. The annual income of the reversion was insufficient for his support. He had given up all connection with his profession, and, having no alternative, had lived on his capital until it was exhausted. Here, again, Mr Wilson was called to exercise his unrivalled benevolence. Mr Borland having explained to him his situation, stating that if he had the command of a little money, he could turn it to good account in Glasgow, and that he would be able to form such a connection there as would not only secure the capital, but afford him the means of living ;—Mr Wilson spoke to Mr Montgomery on the subject, and proposed that they should conjunctly advance a sum for Mr Borland's purpose. But Mr Montgomery said it would be folly to do this, as Robert knew nothing of mercantile business, and should rather return to the profession to which he had been bred.

ROBERT WILSON, M.D., H.E.I.C.S.

He declined making any advance, but Mr Wilson gave Mr Borland £1000, and urged him to be cautious, and to be guided by trustworthy persons in the proper disposal of it. With this sum Mr Borland made some adventures in trade. They were not fortunate, but the profits and the capital enabled him to live in Glasgow for some years.

Meanwhile I ought to take pleasure in recording Mr Wilson's kindness to me. It has been mentioned that when I bought my house in Strand he gave me £200, and said he would assist in the repairs. These proved more expensive than had been calculated, but when begun could not be stopped. Mr Wilson paid the whole cost, which amounted to £1000. These extra sums he had been enabled to accumulate from his income, which was considerably above his expenditure, and he used to say he had no wish to lay past money.

After Mr Adam's property was sold he left Garpel and went to Edinburgh, where he commenced business as a Writer to the Signet, to which he had in early life served an apprenticeship. After a year or two he was named factor on the Seaforth estate, and removed with his family to the Island of Lewis.

The year 1822 opened upon us inauspiciously. Miss Wilson resided at Bogston with her brother, and paid occasional visits at Crummock. In the beginning of January this year she came in to attend the Sacrament, and to stay with her friends for a week or two. On the first Sabbath of the year she partook of the Communion, was in her usual

health and spirits, which were remarkably good considering her advanced age of eighty-one. On the night of Saturday the 12th, she fell down the upper part of the stair in Crummock house leading to the bedrooms. The stair is of stone, and the height, from the first landing-place to the top, is five feet, and consists of eight steps. She fell backwards, and, being corpulent, her weight made her fall more serious. Her skull was fractured. She was found in a state of insensibility, carried to bed, the surgeon sent for, and everything done for her relief which could be suggested, but without avail. She never spoke, or showed any symptoms of sensibility, and died at eight in the morning of Monday the 14th. She was a most worthy person. She had a great deal of humour, and told anecdotes with much vivacity. Her flow of spirits was very uncommon in aged people, and she was of a kind and affectionate disposition. Above all, she was a sincere Christian. In her repositories was found a holograph testament, in which she left Mr Wilson a bond she held over some property in the neighbourhood for £498, adding, "It is only returning to him his own which he so generously gave me." This act shows much for her sense of gratitude and propriety, and those who knew her must recognise it as an act very like herself. She left £100 to her sister, and £50 to each of her nephews and nieces. The funds were easily realised, and paid in terms of her will. Mr Wilson got the sum she destined for him, but, with his own peculiarity of beneficence, he divided it between Mrs Adam, Mrs Dobie, Mrs Barr, and

Mr Borland. Mrs Adam's share was applied in paying up the arrears due by Mr Adam to the funds of the Writers to the Signet, to secure a provision for Mrs Adam, should she survive her husband.

In April this year (1822) I was called to London, in consequence of the death of my uncle, Dr Wilson. He left a large fortune to my youngest brother Wilson, and legacies to his other relatives, including my family, to the amount of £12,000. He gave an annuity of £500 to his mother, and of £100 to his nephew, John Fulton of Grangehill. Mr Cochrane of Clippens, Mr Henry Fulton of Watling Street, London, and myself, were named his executors and trustees. My brother was not to succeed to the possession of the property until he was twenty-five, and was required to take the surname of Wilson. He was then in his nineteenth year.

In the same month Miss Patrick of Trearne died in Edinburgh, very much regretted. I have taken some previous notice of her.

At Whitsunday the estate of Grangehill changed owners. It belonged to John Fulton, my mother's son by her first husband, with whose predecessors it had remained since 1682. John Fulton went, when very young, into the army. He entered as ensign in the 20th Regiment of Foot, and was in the expeditions to Holland and Egypt. He rose to the rank of lieutenant, and was in terms of purchasing a company. He came home on a visit, became attached to Catherine, only daughter of the late Mr M^{c}Lellan, minister

of Beith, and married her in 1804. He retired from the army; settled on his property of Grangehill, where he built a comfortable mansion-house, with suitable offices and gardens; laid off his grounds and plantations with considerable taste, and gave promise of proving a useful member of society. He had a fine property in the Abbey Parish of Paisley, which abounded with excellent coal, and altogether was in receipt of £800 a year. But he was a "foolish fellow" (to use a gentle term for what was worse than folly), gave way to his passions, left his family, went into the Ayrshire Militia, in which he had a company; involved himself in debt; quarrelled with his wife, who separated from him; and after a few years of this reckless conduct, saw all his property sold, and, but for the benevolence of his uncle, Dr Wilson, himself reduced to penury. The estate of Grangehill was bought by Mr Isaac Legg, an English merchant, whose only daughter was married to Captain Charles Hope Reid of the Royal Navy, and who is now [1838] in possession.

In course of this summer the Inhabitants of Beith paid Mr Wilson a public compliment. He was requested by a committee of their number to sit for his portrait, which they resolved should be placed in the Town Hall, and to this he consented. On 4th July 1822 the portrait was put up, and Mr Wilson entertained at a public dinner, which was numerously and respectably attended. The following inscription was written on parchment, and put on the back of the picture—"The Portrait of William Wilson of Crum-

mock, Esquire. He was eldest son of Bailie John Wilson, merchant in Kilmarnock, by Janet Simson, his second wife, daughter of William Simson of Willowyard, and was born at Kilmarnock, 22nd June 1754.

"The householders and other inhabitants of Beith, impressed with a due sense of the humanity, generosity, and public spirit of the said William Wilson, and the cheerfulness with which he was at all times ready to come forward in anything calculated for the benefit of that place and its inhabitants, considered it their duty in a public manner to express their high estimation and unqualified approbation of his noble and generous spirit, and resolved to request him to allow his portrait to be taken and placed in the Town Hall of Beith, the expenses to be defrayed by public subscription; which having been agreed to by Mr Wilson, this portrait was put up on 4th July 1822. John Allan *pinxit.*" *

Mr Wilson's sight had been failing very sensibly for some years, and as he could no longer see to read, it was resolved to engage a lady companion to aid Miss Wilson in household affairs, and to read to him. On this footing Miss Mary Glass, of Edinburgh, was engaged. She was a well-educated person of good character and very correct habits, and possessed of respectable talents. She had been

* "The above-mentioned portrait having become so wasted and decayed as to be no longer recognisable as a likeness, Mrs Dobie (formerly of Crummock), in October 1865, presented the Town House with one of the two portraits of Mr Wilson in her possession, which had been painted in duplicate by Peter Paillou of London, and it was accordingly hung in lieu of the portrait by Mr Allan." This notice was added to the previous inscription.

governess in Mr Adam's family for some years, and was well known to Mr and Miss Wilson. She continued at Crummock till Mr Wilson's death, and proved of much comfort and usefulness to him.

As Mr Montgomery was getting frailer, and was lonely at Bogston, Mr Wilson pressed him to come in and live with him at Crummock. This Mr Montgomery declined as long as he could, having a strong feeling of independence about his own personal concerns, but at last he yielded and came in to Crummock on 2nd June 1824, where he remained until his death.

In July 1824, Mr Borland paid a visit at Crummock and remained for six weeks. He was in low spirits, and, as I thought, showed an inclination to be more with me in private than on any previous occasion. In my garden one day the subject of his affairs was introduced in conversation, and he told me candidly that his means were entirely exhausted, and that he did not know how to carry on himself and his family. He said he knew it was in vain to apply for any assistance from Bogston, and that Mr Wilson had already done so much for him that he could not speak to him on the subject. As I knew that he would ultimately succeed to the lands of Bogston, and that he would get a share of Mr Montgomery's general estate, I requested him to keep up his spirits, and agreed to draw a bill upon him for £50 as a temporary relief, he getting it discounted at Kilmarnock with his friend Mr Martin Paterson, agent there for the Commercial Bank of Scotland. This was

accordingly done,—and it was the commencement of a long protracted plan of finance.

As I foresaw that the discounting of bills might be continued for some time, I mentioned to Mr Wilson what I had done, and he said it was all right, and that it would be as well not to trouble Mr Montgomery about the matter at present, so nothing was said to him on the subject till some time afterwards.

Mr Wilson's sight was now entirely gone. From his long residence in a warm climate it appeared that the optic nerve had entirely lost its power, and that no art could restore it. From this time till his death he did not know day from night. This was a sad bereavement, yet he never murmured at it. On the contrary, he became, if anything, more cheerful. His other faculties seemed to become stronger and his mind more acute. It was not taken up with objects of sight and was thrown back on its own resources. He was deprived of the high enjoyment which arises from looking at nature with the bodily eye, but how often does the eye range over the finest scenery without inspiring feelings of devotion or of gratitude. He was not deprived of the mental contemplation of nature, or of moral goodness. How often are these sources of inspiration left uncultivated and unknown!

> If it be grief to mark the sightless eye
> Wander o'er Nature's loveliness unblissed
> With visions of delight, is't not more sad,
> When truth and goodness, in their angel forms,
> To the dark soul become invisible?

One favourite amusement the loss of sight made Mr Wilson forego. He had been always fond of a rubber at whist, which game he played with much skill. Mr Borland having seen a pack of cards used by a blind gentleman, and which were so marked as to enable him to know each card by feeling it, he undertook to get a pack so marked for Mr Wilson. This he accordingly got. The device was very ingenious and completely successful. Each suit had its peculiar mark on the right upper corner of the card. The mark was a drop of wax dissolved in spirit of wine, which, though easily felt with the finger and thumb, did not protrude so as to be noticeable when the back of the card was uppermost. Then each card had its own mark. By feeling the upper corner the suit was known, and by feeling the side each particular card was distinguished. Mr Wilson had strong powers of memory and calculation. He made himself master of these cards in a very short time, and soon enjoyed his rubber as much as ever. It was necessary for those who played the game with him to name their cards as they threw them. He named his and very rarely made a mistake. It was a pleasing thing to see him at the game, and it was to himself an agreeable relaxation and exercise. If there be *morality* in card playing it was to be learned of him. He did not care for money and seldom played for more than a penny a point. He never lost his temper, and gave up the moment any one said he had got enough, or that it was late and time to stop. Those who know anything of whist must admit that it is an interesting game. It

requires great attention, exercise of memory and calculation, and its natural effect is to induce habits of close and correct thinking. It has ever been a favourite game with learned and polite people, and forms an agreeable variety of intercourse among personal friends. That it is liable to abuse, and has been grossly abused, is very true, and whenever any game ceases to be a *game*, it becomes sinful and ought to be shunned.

Miss Glass read during the forenoon to Mr Wilson and Mr Montgomery. Mr Wilson took in the *London Courier* at second hand, *Blackwood's Magazine*, the *Quarterly Review*, and some other periodicals. His knowledge of the political and local news and of the common literature of the day was thus kept well up, and he took an interest in all that was read to him. His time passed cheerfully. He was in good bodily health, and his mind was constantly exercised with feelings of gratitude and benevolence. In this easy way the time passed for several years. Bogston and he were remarkably attached to each other. They lived for each other's comfort and happiness, and though on many things they differed in opinion, they never disputed nor allowed opinions to interrupt their kindly feelings. Mr Montgomery was remarkably fond of music, and played with accuracy and taste on the German flute. Miss Glass played the pianoforte very well, and he often accompanied her. At last his fingers got stiff, and he was obliged to give up this favourite amusement, which he had practised for upwards of seventy years. On his 90th birthday (9th

December 1827) he sung at the table "Rule, Britannia" with considerable spirit.

[Mr Dobie has here made a very unaccountable and, it need scarcely be said, a very unintentional omission in forgetting to notice the death of Robert, eldest son of Mr Shedden of Morishill, which occurred on Friday, 25th July 1828, at Vizianagram, from a stroke of apoplexy. He had latterly become very lusty, and when in Burmah with his regiment about two years and a half before his death had met with an accident, which is thus mentioned by Surgeon James Towell in a letter to Alexander Shedden, Surgeon of the 17th N.I., then in Rangoon :—"Prome, 1st January 1826.—My dear Doctor,—I must tell you of a little accident which befell your brother the other day, from which he escaped with very little injury. He went into the Stockade (for, be it known, we are living in your old lines) upon some business with the Paymaster, and in coming out, his Arab pony ran away with him. Somehow or other the girths became loose, and in attempting to pull up the *brute* the saddle went over its neck and down came the *Fat Captain*. It was a mercy he had no great height to fall from. He lighted upon his head and shoulder, fracturing his right clavicle. It is a horrid brute for running away, and he always rode with a snaffle only. The bone was luckily not displaced, so I put him in *Irons*, binding his arm and *Bracing*, as we would say on *board ship*, well back. Here he sits laughing at us, as fat as ever, and has lost nothing of his appetite." From this accident he was considered to

have quite recovered, but for some time previous to his death he suffered from pains in his head. It appears in a letter dated Vizianagram, 30th August 1828, from R. Home, Lieut.-Col. of the regiment, addressed to Alexander Shedden, then invalided and residing in the Neilgherry Hills, that Captain Shedden, in returning from his walk on the morning of Sunday, 20th July, complained of great weakness in his limbs, as he said, feeling as if they did not belong to him. On reaching his house, and while in the act of writing out his official report, he was attacked and fell on the floor. He died on the Friday following. The sad news was communicated to Mr Shedden by his son Alexander. It was a severe blow to his now aged father, then in his 76th year, who, in his reply, dated 18th January 1829, after lamenting his great bereavement, beseeches "Sandy" to come home soon and try to comfort him, adding—"You are now my only son, and must soon fill your father's place; let me take you in my arms and bless you before I go hence."—The earnest desire was granted.

Mr Dobie was in London at the time, and, having noticed the death in the newspapers, hastened down to comfort and condole, arriving the day after the letter was received at Morishill.

Robert Shedden, who, on 20th March 1814, was appointed Lieutenant in the 8th, had for several years held the rank of Captain in the 12th Madras Native Infantry, and his death was much regretted by his brother officers and all who knew him.—ED.]

Meanwhile, I was going on supporting Mr Borland by discounting bills. As the necessity continued, every renewal was attended with an increase in the sum, so that the amount began to assume a serious appearance. I now thought it my duty to acquaint Mr Montgomery with these transactions. He said he did not intend to advance any money to his nephew, but as I knew that he was to succeed to a share of his general estate, he was quite willing to grant any deed I might require for my own safety. I accordingly took from him an assignation to Mr Borland's share in trust for myself, until the obligations I was under on his account should be discharged, I being bound to account to Mr Borland for the residue. I was thus secured against any ultimate loss if Mr Borland survived Mr Montgomery.

At length the prospect darkened upon poor Borland. His health began to decline seriously. His wife and he had long lived unhappily, and at last separated. Early in 1829 matters came to a crisis between them, and Mr Borland, who had just partially recovered from a dangerous illness, wrote me of his intention to come to Scotland, but he could not move from his residence in Youghall until some pressing debts were paid. The never failing source of relief was again applied to, and Mr Wilson gave me £200 to remit to him.

The unfortunate writer came to Glasgow followed by his wife and son, a boy about five years of age. Mrs Borland's brother, the Reverend George Tierney Roche, came to Beith on 16th July and had an interview with

Mr Wilson and Mr Montgomery, to whom he stated the cause of his sister's separating from her husband. It was a painful narrative and gave the old gentlemen much uneasiness, but they both resolved to avoid taking any part in the quarrel. I went to Glasgow next day and saw Mr Borland in M'Lean's Lodgings in Broomielaw. I was much struck with his emaciated appearance, and thought the look of death was in his countenance. I heard his complaints and his resolutions and plans. Then I saw Mrs Borland and heard her side of the question. It was a harassing and exciting narrative on both sides, and I was glad to get away. On the 28th I got a note from Mr Borland's friend, Mr Alexander Smyth, that he was much worse. I went to Glasgow by the coach next morning and hurried to his lodgings, but about ten minutes before my arrival poor Borland had died. Mr Smyth informed me that when his disease had the appearance of seriousness, his wife attended him and aided him in his suffering, but there was no interchange of forgiveness, and he became insensible of the hand that administered to his wants. I arranged matters for his funeral, which took place on Saturday, 1st August, and was attended by a small select party of his friends. He was interred in the Crypt of Dr Mitchell's Church in Wellington Street ;—and thus the grave closed on poor Borland !

Nature and education had done much for him. He was a tall handsome man, of strong powers of mind, had a keen relish for mathematical pursuits, and a delicate taste for music. His manners were polished and easy, and his accomplish-

ments very much those of a gentleman. Altogether he seemed destined to ornament society, but it was not so realised. If he sinned he also suffered, and I trust the door of mercy was open.

> No farther seek his merits to disclose,
> Or draw his frailties from their dread abode
> (There they alike in trembling hope repose),
> The bosom of his Father and his God.[1]

Soon after the funeral I had a conversation on the subject with Mr Montgomery and Mr Wilson. Mr Montgomery at once agreed to pay all the bills for which I was liable, and several other debts which Mr Borland owed and which he expressed a desire to discharge. On doing this he resolved to alter his settlement, and accordingly did so. He left his estate of Bogston to Mr Borland's only son, and added to it the piece of land (near 20 acres) which he had bought of Hugh Miller, and which lay very well in to his farm of Bellcraig. This had cost him upwards of £800, which, with the debts he paid for his nephew, would be near £2000. He made this equivalent to the share of his general estate, which had been by his former deed destined to Mr Borland. He burdened the heir with £500 to his sister, and £50 a year to his mother if she remained a widow. The rental of the property settled on Mr Borland's son was somewhat short of £200 a year.

Mr Montgomery in his new settlement named Mr Wilson, Mr Cosmo Innes, advocate, the Reverend G. T. Roche, and

[1] Gray's Elegy.

myself, tutors and curators for the children when the succession should open to them at his death; and by a separate mandate he authorised Mr Wilson and me to make advances in the meantime for their aliment and education.

The dead are soon forgotten. On 11th November, just 105 days after poor Borland's death, his widow was married at Cork to Capt. S. W. Mayne of the 88th Regiment of Foot.

Sometime prior to this Mr Adam had returned from Lewis to Edinburgh, where he recommenced business as a Writer to the Signet. This led to further demands on the generosity of Mr Wilson, which it is not necessary to particularise.

To resume:—In the close of 1830 the Duke of Wellington's administration of public affairs came to an end, and Earl Grey, the idol of the Whigs, came into power. The question of Parliamentary reform was brought forward, and for a year and a-half engaged and excited the public mind. Mr Wilson felt an interest in this great question, and attended some of the meetings in Beith held to petition the Legislature in favour of the Reform Bill; but Mr Montgomery, by this time near ninety-four years of age, took no interest in the matter, and heard the news of it with comparative indifference. Time was, when he would have hailed it as a great improvement in the status of his countrymen; but when the grasshopper becomes a burden, the affairs of the State are left to the more active and zealous. It is no part of our present duty to advert to this great question farther than in reference

to those of whom we now write. The Reform Bill passed on 17th July 1832, and a question which had agitated the public mind for generations, and for promoting which men of independent minds had been transported as felons, was settled, it is to be hoped, for ever.

The first registration of electors took place in October 1832, and Mr Montgomery and Mr Wilson were both enrolled. The general election by the new constituency took place in December, but it was so ordered that neither could exercise this privilege.

For upwards of twelve months prior to this time Mr Montgomery had got very frail. At his birthday in December 1831 he completed his ninety-fourth year. He began to droop and to enter into a dull comatose state, which is not infrequently the prelude of dissolution. His mind and body failed together. He never gave incoherent answers so as to show any derangement of intellect, but he asked the same questions frequently in the course of an hour, and had latterly shown a weariness to be at rest.

In May 1832, Mr Alexander Shedden returned from India. He had seen a good deal of service with the army, and came home in good health, having been absent from Morishill a little over eighteen years.

Towards the end of the year it became very obvious that Mr Montgomery's long life was drawing to its close. For several days he was duller than usual, spoke little, and took little nourishment. At last, on Wednesday the 26th December, in the room and within a few feet of the spot

where I now write, the good old man breathed his last gentle sigh. Mr Wilson closed his eyes, and for the last time pressed the hand which had never opened to him but with the most cordial affection. Mr Montgomery was ninety-five years and seventeen days old when he died—a period of human life to which few are permitted to arrive. He was buried on Monday the 31st of December,—and the year and the grave closed on him for ever.

In taking a review of his character the reader of this narrative must have been aided in forming some notion of it from the correspondence which has previously been detailed; but that does not sufficiently develop his energies. He had decided talents for business, and retained through life the most accurate habits. Every money transaction to the minutest was entered in his ledger, and he kept a regular letter-book, in which with his own hand he engrossed all his correspondence. From his residence in America before the breaking out of the war, he partook of the spirit with which the Americans resisted the power of the mother country to tax the Colonies at her pleasure, and he rejoiced that the struggle terminated in the independence of America, which called a great nation into a separate political existence. When he saw that in his own country the people had little or no political power, the elective franchise being confined to lands or superiorities of a certain extent, he approved of the struggle which was made for a reform in the representation, and boldly reprobated the system of creating nominal and fictitious votes in the persons of

friends or dependants of great families which was much resorted to for party purposes. When he was told by the agent of the late Hugh, Earl of Eglinton, that he had a commission to put him on the Roll of Freeholders for Ayrshire, he intimated with firmness that he would hold a vote on no such principle. He used to describe, with considerable humour, a meeting of country gentlemen at an election, and supposed two persons eyeing those who were coming in and taking their seats. "Who is that?"—"Oh, that is Mr such a thing of such a place!"—"And who is that other person with him?"—"That's one of Lord Eglinton's led horse."

Soon after he settled at Bogston he was nominated a Justice of the Peace for Ayrshire, the duties of which office he discharged with great uprightness and impartiality. One most commendable trait in his character as a Magistrate was his refusing to hear *ex parte* statements. When any one came to consult him about a case of bargain or quarrel, he uniformly enquired if it was intended to bring the matter before the Court of Justices, and if this was admitted he declined the consultation, as it might tend to make him prejudge the merits of the case, and be injurious to the party absent. All people were to him alike. He dispensed with equal hand justice to the rich and the poor, and when he accepted of submissions, he viewed himself as an independent judge chosen for both parties, and not, as is too frequently done, chosen for the interest of one. In his character of Magistrate he spurned all interference with

his independence. I cannot refrain from giving an example of this:—

John, son of John Shedden of Marsheland, commonly called "Jack-the-Marsheland," was addicted to the great offence of shooting hares, and annoyed some of the neighbouring gentry by his success and perseverance in that sport, he not being a qualified person in terms of law. It seems he had some case before the Justices, which Mr Montgomery disposed of in the ordinary course of the roll, and this having been reported to the Earl of Eglinton, his Lordship wrote Bogston finding fault with his having entertained Shedden's plea. The following letter from Bogston to the Earl speaks for itself:—"Bogstoun, 23rd July 1801.—My Lord,—I this day received your Lordship's letter of the 18th, and lose no time in transmitting an answer.

"I certainly did lately sit in different Justice Courts at Beith, where John Shedden, whose character is that of a notorious poacher, appeared both as prosecutor and defender, but I knew of no warrant being out against him. If I had, and if the officer possessed of the warrant had been in Court, I might have ordered him to carry his warrant into execution; but, certainly, I would not have been justifiable in refusing to hear and judge in his cause; and I would beg leave to ask your Lordship, if even now, notorious as Shedden's contempt and defiance of the laws of his country is (and he has offended much more highly in that way now than he had done when he appeared in Beith Court), if the Sheriff, as Judge Ordinary of the County,

or the Judges of the Court of Session, would or could refuse to hear and judge his cause? Nay, I will go a little farther, and ask if even the House of Peers would not receive his appeal?

"I beg your Lordship would not think I am now pleading the cause of Shedden; but you are pleased to ask what were my motives and reasons for attending to his petition, and I am only anxious to satisfy you that it was nothing but a conscientious discharge of the duties of my office, for I know of nothing that can exclude any of his Majesty's subjects from his Courts of Justice but outlawry pled against them.

"I think it not impossible that your Lordship may confound the case of John Shedden, lately rescued from the officers of justice in Beith, with that of Matthew Shedden, lately active in meal riots, against whom I, in conjunction with some of my colleagues, issued a warrant, and who was outlawed at last Circuit Court in Ayr for non-appearance. I have the honour to be, my Lord, your Lordship's most obedient servant, Robert Montgomery."

Such a mark of independent character must have gratified rather than offended the noble person to whom it was addressed, who was well acquainted with, and had a high personal regard for the writer, and who probably had written to him under the influence of misrepresentation. Certain it is that it did not disaffect his Lordship, as next year he and Lady Eglinton asked Mr Montgomery to a large party they held at the Castle. Mr Montgomery's answer is worthy

of perusal:—"5th July 1802. — My Lord, — Having been abroad most of last week, I only received the card Lady Eglinton and you honoured me with on Saturday evening.

"I have for some time been blaming myself for neglecting to pay my respects to Lady Eglinton and you at Eglinton Castle, and certainly will do myself that honour ere long; but I hope you will excuse my non-attendance on the 13th, when you will have so much company at the Castle. It will be much more agreeable to me to spend a few hours at Eglinton when I can enjoy more of your Lordship's company. I have the honour to be, my Lord, your Lordship's most obedient Servant."

Mr Montgomery's honourable and independent conduct gained him the esteem of the whole district in which he lived, and wherever he appeared he was received with respect. He took an interest in all parochial affairs, watched over and checked the public accounts, and for many years was, as a matter of course, elected preses of the meetings of heritors on parish business.

In the conducting of his own affairs he was a good economist, and from his small income saved a considerable amount of money; but there was no meanness in his economy. He entertained his friends like a plain country gentleman, and was social in his habits and disposition. He had a native humour which cannot be described, and in telling a story would "set the table in a roar" with what in other hands would have been dull and uninteresting. He was remarkably fond of the society of the young, entered with zeal

and kindness into their amusements, and towards females was always complaisant and polite. In his moral duties he was thoroughly exemplary, and the breath of calumny never could sully the fair reputation of his character. In his personal appearance he was particular, and his countenance was strikingly in keeping with his character. There is an excellent portrait of him by Raeburn, which was taken when he was in his 77th year. It was the property of Mr Borland, at whose expense it was taken, and is kept at Crummock for behoof of his son.[1]—Over Mr Montgomery's grave, Mr Wilson erected a plain table tombstone, bearing the following inscription:—"In memory of an upright and honorable man, Robert Wilson Montgomery of Bogston. Born at Kilmarnock, 27th November 1737; died at Crummock, 26th December 1832."[2]

In the evening, after Mr Montgomery's funeral, his settlements were read. He conveyed his lands of Bogston and others to his grand-nephew, Robert Montgomery Borland, under the burden of £500 to his only sister, Charlotte, which was to bear interest at five per cent. per annum until she should be 21 years of age, when the principal was declared payable. He disponed his general estate in three shares—one to Mr Wilson, one to Miss Jenny Wilson, and one to

[1] See Appendix II.

[2] The date of birth here given accords with that written by his father, John Wilson, on the fly leaf of the Family Bible; but in computing his age, as on page 129, an allowance of twelve days was necessary to reconcile the difference between the old style in which his birth is noted and the new style in which his death is recorded, the change from the old to the new style having taken place in 1752.

ROBERT W. MONTGOMERY OF BOGSTON.

the children of Mrs Shedden. He bequeathed £20 to Robert Morris, his old servant; £20 to William Jamieson, Mr Wilson's servant; and he left me a silver seal having a medallion of Washington, which was said to be a good likeness of that man, whose character the testator much admired. He put his gold watch, chain, and seals at the disposal of Mr Wilson. The general estate consisted of bills, bonds, and heritable securities. It amounted to £10,200 stg. Each division was £3400. After deducting expenses and legacy duty, each of Mrs Shedden's four children got £827, 16s. 5d.

"Friend after friend departs.[1]" No sooner was Mr Montgomery removed than our little society was called on to bear another loss. Mr Shedden of Morishill had been falling off for a year, but since the month of May he drooped very much, and gave symptoms of his approaching end. When Bogston died, he was so frail as to be unable to go to Crummock, and it was apparent that he was not to survive him long. On 1st January (1833), the day after Bogston's funeral, Mrs Dobie and I dined at Morishill. Mr Shedden sat at table as usual, and talked cheerfully. Next day he was worse. In the evening I read a letter in his hearing which had been received from one of Bogston's tenants who had gone to America. He made several remarks upon it. In course of the evening, he said he occasionally saw something like mice running up the chairs in the room, but being conscious that this was an illusion owing to the failure

[1] James Montgomery, "Friends."

of the optic nerve, he said it was nothing in reality,—but was "the shadow of a shade." I recollect of his repeating this expression, and of giving his usual significant look, as if to say, "I am quite sensible of the meaning of this remark." There was a considerable difficulty in his breathing, and a good deal of fullness about his throat. Next morning (Thursday, 3rd January), I walked to Morishill before breakfast, and went to his bedside. He was sitting, and said he had had a very bad night. He insisted upon getting up and putting on his clothes, which he did without assistance, and sat down in the easy chair at the fireside, putting one foot on a small stool. In this position a stupor came over him. His breathing, which was loud and heavy when he sat down, became gradually weaker, and in the same posture he died without pain or struggle about 1 p.m., just eight days after his friend Mr Montgomery, with whom he had lived in close familiar intercourse for fifty years.

Mr Shedden was a worthy man. He was of a rather quick and passionate temper, and sometimes spoke and acted unguardedly, but afterwards felt very keenly when he had erred, and was most prompt in being reconciled. He was in his own house exceedingly kind and hospitable, and was an attentive husband and most affectionate father. He was bold and independent in his opinions, and took a warm interest in the political questions which had so recently before his death excited the public mind. This made him very popular at the time, and he was much regretted when he

JOHN SHEDDEN OF MORISHILL.

died. He was buried, on 10th January, at the side of his beloved wife, who predeceased him fifteen years.

By his settlements he disponed his property of Morishill and Broadstone to his son, burdened with £1300 to each of his three daughters, and he left his general estate to his son and daughters equally. This yielded about £700 to each. In this way each of Mr Shedden's daughters succeeded in the course of eight days to £2800.

On 16th January Mr Wilson gave me his brother's gold watch, chain, and seals, in presence of his sister. This gift I valued highly at the time, and still look on it with pride. It reminds me of the honourable person to whom it belonged, and of the benevolent donor, and I trust it will be handed down in my family for generations as a valuable heir-loom.

[At this time certain circumstances, arising from jealousy and disappointed expectations in money matters, led to an estrangement of affection and friendship among a family which had been distinguished for their attachment to one another. Mr Dobie had considered it incumbent on him to state these very fully in order to clear himself from unjust imputations and charges. But as they are of a somewhat painful character, it has been thought better to omit them here and not allude to them further.—Ed.]

Mr Wilson on his return from India had expressed a desire to purchase the estate of Willowyard in this parish, which had belonged to his grandfather, Mr William Simson. It now belonged to Mr Steele of Port-Glasgow, who did not seem much disposed to part with it at that time, and

the matter was not pressed upon him. In the spring of 1833 the desire revived with Mr Wilson, and he spoke to me on the subject. In March I went at his request to Mr Steele at Port-Glasgow, and opened a negotiation with him which, after some correspondence, ended in my going back on 10th April and concluding a bargain with him at the price of £7500. The property consisted of close upon 200 acres, and the rental was £210, so that it was a dear purchase. It was Mr Wilson's wish to restore it to his family, and to transmit it to Mr Shedden, his nephew and heir. Mr Shedden took no interest in the matter, and from the first seemed very indifferent about it. When I returned from Port-Glasgow with the missives of sale and the plan of the property, he was at Grangevale at tea, and though he passed Crummock on his way home, he did not go in to congratulate his uncle on the purchase—a circumstance which was remarked at the time and afterwards remembered. On 14th May, Mr Wilson, Mr Shedden, and I, went to Port-Glasgow, settled the price, and got the titles. On the way, the old gentleman was in high spirits. Mr Shedden scarcely spoke during the whole journey.

In order to enable Mr Wilson to pay the price, he intimated by letter to Messrs Fairlie, Clark, Innes & Co., of London (the successors of Fairlie, Bonham & Co.), that he had occasion for some money and intended to draw on his account current with them for £4500. Mr Clark, in course of post, requested the draft to be made at two months, which was done accordingly.

WILLOWYARD.

On 23rd May, Mr Wilson got infeftment in Willowyard. He went down to the place in person for this ceremony. He recollected the localities most correctly, went to a pear tree in the garden which he used to climb when a boy, and talked of other trees which had been the object of his early attachment. We drove down to the loch. He came out of the carriage, enjoyed the breeze from the water, which seemed to him "redolent of joy and youth," and he returned home satisfied with his purchase, and feeling as if he had performed a duty he owed to the memory of his ancestors.

A gloom was soon after this thrown over the serenity of the sky by a piece of most unexpected intelligence. On the evening of Saturday, 6th July, I was at Crummock till near ten. On my way home I met a friend, at whom I asked if there were any news in the London papers. The answer was—"No, but a considerable sensation seems to have been produced in the city by the failure of Mr Fairlie's house." I was struck at this, hastened to the Reading-room to see the paper, and, finding that Mr Wilson's servant had got it to take to Crummock as usual, I hurried back to Mr Wilson and stated what I had heard. He could not believe it to be correct, and said there must be some mistake in naming the house. At this moment the servant passed the window, and I ran to him and asked if he had any letters for Mr Wilson. He had one from Mr David Clark, which announced that the house of Fairlie, Clark, Innes & Coy. had suspended payment. This was a serious occurrence to Mr Wilson. He had upwards of £6000 in

their hands, and the bill he had drawn on them for £4500 would, of course, now be dishonoured, and be sent back on him, and for this he was not prepared. The purchase of Willowyard would materially lessen his annual income, and altogether this stroke was calculated to give him much uneasiness. It did not do so. He felt pity for Mr David Clark and for others, but he murmured not as to himself. He said:—"If I could have anticipated this, I would not have purchased the Willowyard, and probably the best thing to be done will be to see if Mr Steele will take it back." We sat and talked over the matter for a considerable time, and then separated. I spent next day with him. He was calm and undisturbed, saying that there would be plenty left for Jenny and him, and he did not care what became of it afterwards. He lifted up no reproach, nor uttered any over anxious or repining expression. Next day's post brought a letter to him from Mr David Hunter,[1] assuring him of the undoubted stability of Gilmore & Co. of Calcutta, in whose hands the residue of his fortune lay, and offering to pay down his money in London at the current rate of exchange if he was in any doubt as to their credit. A bill for £500, which he feared had been paid into the London house, was also returned to him in safety. This was so far good, and tended to lighten the gloom. But a most remarkable example of affection and regard was now exhibited by Miss Jenny to her beloved brother. She, with the greatest alacrity and goodwill,

[1] See Postscript to Memoir.

MISS JENNY WILSON.

gave up the money she had got from Bogston's succession to Mr Wilson, requested him to use it in paying the bill that would come back on him, and not to think of parting with Willowyard. They had recently before this executed their deeds of settlement, and as their general estate was destined to go to the same individuals, it seemed of little consequence from which of them the money should come. Miss Wilson was delighted with having it in her power to aid her brother. She burned her settlement, and thought she had performed a most important duty. I have known her vex herself for days about the disappearance of an old stocking or ribbon, and I have known her grudge a few shillings when it was purposed to spend them in a way she did not approve; but here she gave up to Mr Wilson £3000 without one moment's hesitation, in a manner which would have done honour to a person of the most liberal and accomplished mind. I cannot withhold that I suggested the idea to her, and I shall ever feel pride at the reflection that I was thus instrumental in restoring quietude of feeling to two such interesting individuals.

Toward the close of this year (1833) Mr Wilson had repeated attacks of cold shivering fits, which annoyed him a little, and alarmed his friends. They were not of long duration, and were removed by strong doses of medicine, which he never hesitated to take, and after the use of which he soon regained his strength.

Miss Wilson had long been in a very delicate state of health. She was subject to nervous affections, and was

occasionally thrown into violent fits and spasms, during which she uttered screams as if she had been pierced with a sword. It was a painful sight to witness her during such agonies. Yet she was always sensible, and after the fit was over, soon regained her usual equanimity. She was easily excited, and it was Mr Wilson's most anxious desire that she should not only avoid all causes of excitement, but that others should bear with her little foibles rather than thwart her in them. These two declining friends, far in the vale of years, were now all that were left for their relatives to comfort and to please. I considered my duty in this respect to be, to do all in my power to be useful and to add to their comfort by being as much with them as I could. For many years I regularly called at Crummock and at Grangevale every day between two and three o'clock. Hitherto, my evenings had been devoted to reading, but I gave up this enjoyment and thought it incumbent on me to go to Crummock in the evening. I began to take some interest in the game of whist, and was at last a partner that might be *tolerated*. I had no ambition to be reckoned a card player, and thought it enough when I could play out my hand so as to avoid censure.

When Miss Wilson gave her brother the greater part of her fortune, as has been mentioned, it was agreed that he should secure her in the life-rent of Willowyard and Crummock, which was fully adequate to all her wants; and to carry this resolution into execution, Mr Wilson desired me to employ Mr James Morton, Writer in Ayr (of whom

he had heard me often speak), to prepare the necessary deeds. This was done, and the drafts read over to him, and, being approved of, it was agreed that Mr Wilson should go to Ayr and execute them. On 6th August (1834), Mr Wilson and his sister, Miss Glass, and I, left Beith for Ayr. On our way through Irvine we called on Mr Davidson,[1] who was delighted to see his friend Mr Wilson. They had been long friends and had come from India in the same ship. They both remarked that on this day twenty years they had landed at Brighton. We got to Ayr, the deeds were executed, being signed by Mr Wilson after they were read over in presence of the two witnesses who subscribed them. We made some calls, stayed at the inn all night, and returned next day to Beith, by Kilmarnock. Miss Wilson was in great spirits. I never saw her in better health, and could not avoid remarking it at the time. On our return to Crummock she did not feel well. Next day she kept her room and was visited by her doctor. She had been so often *in extremis*, and had so often recovered, to the surprise of all her friends and attendants, that it was not easy to create alarm on account of the severity of her attacks. On the present occasion the symptoms at first were not calculated to excite fear; but on the 12th she had a paralytic shock, which was viewed as a sad presage. She got gradually weaker, and at half-past twelve on Friday, the 29th, she expired. Mr Wilson seized her hand and took an affectionate farewell, but of this she was not appar-

[1] Brother of Mr Davidson of Drumley.

ently sensible. The last tie which bound him to the earth was now broken. He submitted to the bereavement with humility and resignation. On his return to the dining-room soon after Miss Wilson had expired, he made a remark or two on the event, and said he was now the last, and was left alone. On Miss Glass coming into the room he embraced her with great kindness, thanked her for her attention to his sister, and hoped she would not leave him. Miss Glass retired, and on Mrs Dobie's coming in the same scene was renewed, and he spoke to her with great affection.

Miss Wilson's funeral took place on 4th September. In the evening her settlement was read. She left a legacy of £200 to her niece, Charlotte Borland; to Miss Glass £150, and to my sister Elizabeth, who was a favourite with her and Mr Wilson, £100. She gave her gold watch to Mrs Adam's daughter Janet, and bequeathed the residue of her means to her nephew, Mr Shedden, and to her three nieces equally. That residue turned out about £80 to each. Her little means had been reduced about one half, through her lending £700 on the security of some ground at Crieff, which proved unequal in value to the sum she advanced. She must have lost near £500 by this transaction.

I cannot leave Miss Jenny without recalling her *virtues* to remembrance. Notwithstanding of the frail tabernacle in which her mind was enclosed, she had a vigorous intellect. She was very accurate in her conception of character, her ideas were very correct and pure, and she was remarkable

for the attachment she bore to her brother. She was very attentive to her religious duties.

Immediately after her death there was a most fearful visitation of cholera in Beith. The first death took place on 5th September, the day after her funeral, and in the six weeks following there were 130 deaths, some of which were awfully sudden. Mr Wilson kept free of all complaint during this alarming and exciting period. Towards the close of the year he had a cold, but it went off, and he regained his usual health.

The following year (1835) did not bring any change. Mr Wilson had occasionally fits of shivering and slight bilious attacks, but they were removed by medicine. He was cheerful and composed. I made it a point to be with him as much as I could, and scarcely a day passed this year that I did not see him twice.

Early in 1836 an incident occurred to myself which afterwards proved of some consequence in the affairs of Mr Wilson. On Saturday, 20th February, I dined at Crummock, and before dinner was finished, I received a message that a gentleman wished to see me at the inn. I did not incline to go, as I supposed it to be some person on trivial business; but the message was repeated, and I went down and found Mr Risk, the Agent at Paisley for the Glasgow Union Banking Company, who announced that his errand was to offer me an Agency for that Company in Beith. I was not prepared for such an unexpected offer, and stated, as difficulties, the preoccupation of the field; the great

responsibility; the surety required; and the attention and necessary confinement. These were obstacles, however, which were all conquerable, and I agreed to consult my friends, and write Mr Risk on Monday. I returned immediately to Crummock and told Mr Wilson, who was as much pleased with the proposal as I was. He, of his own accord, said he would be one of my cautioners, and requested me to write my brother, Wilson, that night, stating the matter to him, and he would, of course, be the other surety. I did so. The matter was soon arranged, and I commenced business as a Bank Agent on 1st March.

As my sureties had to become responsible for my intromissions to a considerable amount, it was necessary for them to execute a regular bond of caution to be prepared by the Agent for the Bank. On my stating that Mr Wilson was totally blind, and could not go from home, and that the Agent must come out and get the bond executed by him at Crummock, and have it read over to Mr Wilson before witnesses, doubts were started if this were the legal method of executing a deed by a person in Mr Wilson's situation. The Agent thought that the aid of notaries was necessary, and that besides Mr Wilson's own signature, all deeds executed by him should be signed by notaries also. This was an unexpected view of the law. Mr Wilson had executed his settlements by signing the deeds without the aid of notaries. They had been carefully read over to him, in the presence of the witnesses who subscribed with him, and there was no doubt of their being the acts of his own

mind as well as of his hand. I thought it my duty to communicate the doubt to him, and the danger of his settlements being liable to challenge. He instantly said—"There is no end to the doubts of lawyers; but, if it be necessary, get the deeds copied over, and I will sign them in any way that may be thought proper." This was accordingly done, and Messrs David and John Wilkie (the Agents for the Bank), with four witnesses, came to Crummock on Saturday the 9th of April with my bond of caution and Mr Wilson's deeds. The whole were read carefully over to him, and he signed them. The two notaries also signed at his request, and the four witnesses who heard them read, and saw them so executed, also subscribed. The company remained to dinner. Mr Wilson was in good health and spirits, talked more fluently than usual, and the party left him, impressed with a high sense of his intelligence, and of the correctness and independence of his mind.

On 22nd April Mr Wilson was attacked with gout, which lasted for a week, and then left him. He had had such attacks repeatedly, and generally felt himself better after they went off. On 9th May he had one of his shivering fits, which returned after an interval of a day, and he was not well for nearly a week. On the 22nd, the complaint returned, and remained for four days. On 13th June he had another attack, which was not of long duration. On the 29th, he had a visit from his old and valued friend Mr Davidson, but it was a painful meeting. Mr Davidson had become very deaf, and Mr Wilson was unable to talk with him. He had a

bad shivering fit in Mr Davidson's presence. They parted at seven in the evening. Mr Davidson returned to Irvine, and Mr Wilson retired to bed. The fit went off, and Mr Wilson felt better for some days. On Wednesday, 6th July, he was so well as to go out in the carriage with Miss Glass for a short distance. They called at Morishill, and returned to dinner. On Friday they went out again for about an hour. Mr Wilson felt refreshed by the change of air. This evening my brother-in-law, Mr Lyons,[1] with his wife and family, arrived at Grangevale on their annual visit from Ireland, and on the following evening, 9th July, Mr Lyons and I played a rubber with Mr Wilson and Miss Glass. Mr Wilson was in his usual cheerful manner. We did not play long, and at rising from the table none of us contemplated that this was to be the last game with our worthy friend. Next day he felt very unwell. He was better on the day following, being Monday, but on Tuesday he was worse.

Dr Miller, the medical man who had attended him for years, and in whom he felt much confidence, visited him now twice every day, and about this time began to entertain fear of the result of such continued attacks and long-complained of affection of the stomach. On Friday the 15th July, Mr Wilson's symptoms were getting more unfavourable, and Dr Miller held a consultation with Mr Shedden and me, in which he stated his fears, and his desire that further medical advice should be taken. It was agreed to send for Dr John Macfarlane, one of the surgeons of the

[1] Then, Lieutenant R.N., in the Coastguard service.

Royal Infirmary of Glasgow, and a person in whom Dr Miller said he had much confidence. I sent my clerk to Glasgow that evening with a letter to Dr Macfarlane, who came to Crummock next morning by nine o'clock. We thought it proper not to mention this to Mr Wilson until Dr Macfarlane was in the house. I went up to his bedroom and said to him—"I am going to tell you something, and you are not to be angry with any of us about it."—"No, no, I won't be angry."—"Last night Dr Miller, Mr Shedden, and I resolved to send to Glasgow for some additional medical advice, and Dr Macfarlane, a gentleman suggested by Dr Miller, is below, and is coming up to see you."—"Very well, I am glad that Dr Macfarlane has come. What must I give him for coming out to see me?"—"We will arrange that afterwards, and if he removes your complaint, we must pay him well." Dr Macfarlane, Dr Miller, and Mr Shedden had a long conference with Mr Wilson, and afterwards a consultation among themselves. They concurred in opinion that the evil was beyond the reach of remedy. Dr Macfarlane said privately that he considered recovery very improbable. He concurred in such prescriptions as might soothe and comfort the patient, and approved very much of the previous treatment.

Mr Wilson was quite disposed to talk, and was not in the least degree sick or heavy. Mr William Patrick,[1] from Calcutta, called on Monday the 18th and sat a long time with him, giving him the news of his Calcutta and London

[1] Third son of Robert Patrick of Drumbuie.

friends. He felt gratified at hearing of them. Next day Mr and Mrs Barr and Mrs Adam called, and saw and conversed with him for a short time. On the 20th he requested me to write letters to Messrs Gilmore & Co. of Calcutta desiring them to remit the balance of his funds in their hands by bills on London at the current rate of exchange. This I did, and he signed the letters in the evening. He also signed a memorandum addressed to his trustees and executors giving a short view of his affairs, which, at his request, I deposited in his desk at his bedside. After this was done, as I sat by him, and no one else being in the room, I said:—"Sir,—This complaint of yours seems to baffle the power of the doctors, and there is no saying what may be the result of it. I hope your mind is prepared for the worst." He composed himself a little, and said:—"Mr Dobie, from my earliest years I have reckoned it my duty to submit my mind to the will of God. I have often thought that it might be His pleasure to call me away when I did not look for it, and whether in business or in solitude I felt myself always as one ready to submit to His sovereign will. I am now in His hands. If it be His pleasure to spare me to live a few years longer I should be grateful. If not, I am quite resigned." I said it was the great object of religion and of the Scriptures to teach us this resignation. He said that "Our Saviour's precepts and example were our surest guides, and if men would follow them it would be indeed a very different world from what it is. But there is no question that whatever God

directs must be good. I am at His entire disposal. You may call this religion or philosophy,—but it is what I feel." He made some farther observations, when some person coming in, the conversation dropped. I understood he had repeated the substance of this conversation to Mr Colville, the minister of the parish, who had called on him this forenoon.

For some days after this he lay in great composure, and had no spasms or fits of shivering. He still complained of the pressure, as he called it, on the lower part of his stomach, and he could take nothing but a little liquid. On Monday, the 25th, he got weaker, and I was sent for, as he said he wished to speak to me. When we were alone he said:—"Now, you told me the other day that you had done something without consulting me, and I am going to do something to-day without consulting you. Some people think you can make me do what you please, but to-day I am going to show you that I have a will of my own." I said, "Very well, sir, if you wish me to do anything I will most readily do it."—"What I wish you to do is to write an order on my account with the bank for a hundred pounds, and I will sign it before my two servants; and I am not going to tell you what I mean to do with the money." I said something half jocularly in reply, and, knowing well that he had some benevolent purpose in view, I lost no time in writing the order. He sat up in bed and signed the order with firmness in presence of his two male servants. When they had retired, "Now," said he, "I will tell you what I am going to do with the money. I

am going to give it to Miss Glass, and I wish to do it in your presence. Call her, and I will do it now." I did so. It was a painful scene. He asked her to come near him, took hold of her hand, and said:—"This is a little present for you. You will get something from my will. It will not be much. If I had it in my power, I would not make you rich, but what you will get, with what you have already, will enable you to live, and you are better with a little than with a fortune. Now, take this,—and give me a kiss." Hearing Miss Glass and me audibly affected at this scene, he said:—"There is no necessity to be grieved for me. I am in God's hands. If it is His pleasure to spare me a little longer I will be thankful; if it is otherwise, I am quite resigned, and am willing to submit myself to His mercy."

In the same evening Dr and Mrs Smith of Pitcon called for him. They both saw him, and had some conversation with him. At night he got a soothing application of laudanum and some other medicine. He slept soundly and awakened in the morning much refreshed, and said he felt exceedingly easy and comfortable. Mrs Dobie had, since his confinement to bed, been constantly with him, and was unceasing in her attentions to his personal comforts. Of all men I have known, he most avoided giving trouble to others about himself. If any one *talked* about doing something for him and asked him questions as to his liking this or that thing done, he was much annoyed with it; but if a thing was done for him without any bother, he felt it very kindly. He was always pleased with Mrs Dobie's services. On the evening

of Tuesday, the 26th, I was alone with him, and he said:—"I have been thinking that my two kind attendants will relish a little keepsake from me when I am gone, and I wish to give each of them a gold watch. Will you give orders to get this done without delay, and to have put on the one,—'From W. Wilson to Margaret Dobie':—and on the other,—'From W. Wilson to Miss Mary Glass?'" I said I would attend to this. "With regard to yourself, Mr Dobie, I do not need to give you any keepsake of this kind. You have my brother's watch; and this place will always keep you in mind of me. You will set yourself down and live comfortably here." He alluded to the destination of Crummock, of which I was aware. I said:—"I was greatly gratified by your giving me Bogston's watch. It was the highest compliment ever paid me."—"You were the only one that deserved it, and the only one to whom I would have given it."

Next day I was sent for hurriedly, about two. Mr Wilson had become weaker. In the afternoon he rallied, and was able to speak pretty freely. He asked if I was in the room, and on my going to his bedside and speaking to him, he said:—"There are a few trinkets in my desk which I wish to dispose of. Take the key and open it." I did so, and found the articles he named. He desired me to deliver to the children of his servant, William Jamieson, two coins for keepsakes. He gave Mrs Dobie his father's ring, and he put his large seal to his watch with his own hand. He then said—"I wish you to give to the two female servants, May

and Margaret, £10 each; to William Jamieson, £10; to his wife, £5; and you will see Donald (the gardener) paid his quarter's wages, which are £10, and will be due early in August." He added, "You and Dr Patrick will see Dr Miller sufficiently remunerated for his attendance on me, and now," lifting up his hands, "I have done with all earthly transactions." In a little after this Miss Glass said, "Would you wish, sir, to have Mr Colville to pray with you?"—"Is Mr Colville here?"—"No," replied Miss Glass; "but he said he would willingly come whenever you wished."—Mr Wilson:—"I would rather have one of the psalms than all other prayers. They are the great source of prayer." He continued easy during the evening, but it was very obvious that the end was fast approaching. This night Mrs Dobie and I slept in the back room adjoining Mr Wilson's.

Next day Mr and Mrs Barr called on their way to Paisley. In the afternoon Mr Wilson got weaker. I was with him all day. At night he said:—"Mr Dobie, it will soon be over; it will soon be past. God's will be done.—God's will be done." I said, "I hope, sir, you continue to rely on the mercy of God." With what eagerness and promptitude he half articulated, "Aye: Aye!" We retired to bed about one. I entered his room early next morning, and saw a visible change in his countenance. His servant, William Jamieson, named me, to let Mr Wilson know I was present. He shook his head as if to say, I can't speak to you. This was about four. At six he rallied, took hold of my hand and pressed it. When the clock struck he asked the hour. I told him it was six, and that it was Friday

morning. He said, "I thought it was Saturday." The day proved very wet, and as Mr Wilson was continuing to get weaker, I did not leave him. He spoke very little. At one he asked, "What o'clock?" I said, "It is *one* of the day." When two struck, he said, "That's two." I said "Yes." On hearing my voice he said, "Are *you* there?" I took hold of his hand, and said "Yes." "So I feel," was the gentle reply. He was quite sensible, and aided the little services done to him. When Mrs Dobie bathed his cheeks and lips with a sponge, having in it a little currant wine, he said, in a sort of whisper, "Keep at it." This seemed to afford him much gratification, and he turned his head as if to meet the cooling application. We retired to rest late at night, and rose occasionally towards morning.

At daybreak on Saturday, 30th July, Mr Wilson was quite sensible, but so weak as to be unable to speak. As to all appearance the end was at hand, we sent for Mr Shedden, who came without delay. Mr Wilson was now getting very low. When the clock struck six, he apparently listened to it. At seven he was fast wearing away, but I think he heard that hour strike also, and in fifteen minutes after it, the last quiver passed across those kind and compassionate lips which for many years had quivered not but for the sufferings of others. Oh! it was a solemn, peaceful scene.

Thus lived and thus died William Wilson. We have traced him through the long period of sixty-four years—from his first leaving his father's house, in 1772, until his quiet death at Crummock, in 1836. He had for many years scarcely any variation in his fortune. It was a uniform series of crosses, disappointments, and vexations. These were sufficient to have ruffled the firmest temper, and would have driven many to despair or to dissipation. Yet amid them all he retained that calmness and equanimity which was the gift of God. He murmured not, but hoped for better things at a future day. We have seen him crossed in the tenderest of all human passions, and yielding to the advice and remonstrance of his friends on a subject in which, of all others, it is difficult to bear with interference from any one. We have seen him under all the temptations of the world and the long absence from home, retaining the utmost regard for his brother and sisters, regretting that he was so long in being able to administer to his sisters' comforts; and we have seen with what alacrity he did this the moment he had it in his power: And when Fortune was at last smiling on him, and when in a few more years he might have added greatly to his wealth, how he resigned his prospects that he might come home and enjoy the society of those he loved, ere it was too late. We have seen how he aided his relatives and connections, what large sums he gave away, and how anxious he was to promote the welfare of all within his sphere. His actions were all the spontaneous doings of a benevolent mind. It

was enough for him to hear of an opportunity of doing good. That opportunity was immediately seized, and there was with all this not only no ostentation, but a most anxious wish to have his beneficence unknown. I was the channel of many subscriptions and gifts to poor people in the town, of which I never thought of keeping any record. In all public subscriptions he was most liberal, and was always looked up to. He seemed to experience in a remarkable degree that "it was more blessed to give than to receive." Nor were the excellencies of his character confined to acts of beneficence. He was most exemplary in his *morality*. Many men do deeds of kindness to others whose minds are very sensual, and who are given to many unlawful indulgences. It was not so with him. In his dress he was neat and plain, in his diet moderate, in his drinking almost abstemious. He took one glass of wine after dinner, and occasionally one glass of weak whisky-toddy. In his conversation he was remarkably *pure*. He never allowed passion to lead him into unguarded expressions, nor did he indulge in the most remote degree in anecdote or allusions to anything approaching to licentiousness, and at the joke at which others laughed he scarcely smiled; yet he enjoyed a laugh at the follies or peculiarities of others. In politics he was, as in everything else, of liberal ideas. He was warmly attached to the British Government, as was seen in his escape from America rather than bear arms against his countrymen, and as detailed and expressed in his correspondence; but he was always an advocate for safe and

gradual reform. This opinion had strengthened latterly, for he took a more active and zealous interest in the progress of the Reform cause in 1831 and 1832 than he would have done immediately after his return from India. This arose from a conviction that reform was called for, and ought not to be withheld — his great maxim being, that it was better to meet the wishes of the public mind than to retard them. In religion there is no question that Mr Wilson was a sincere Christian. He spoke of the Second Person of the Trinity uniformly as our Saviour. He often talked of the admirable display of his character as given in the Scriptures; always admitted the Divine origin of the Scriptures; took pleasure in hearing them read, and was most devout and attentive to prayers. It is true that he did not attend on the public ordinances of religion, but this was in a great measure owing to his infirmities. He could not remain in a large apartment a few hours without being affected by the atmosphere. So serious was this, that even in the middle of summer he could not dispense with a fire in his dining-room in the mornings and evenings. He could not have attended church often without exposing himself to the risk of catching cold, but sermons were read on the Sabbath to him, and the Scriptures and prayers were read daily. At the closing scene he showed his complete reliance on the mercy of God, and died with the greatest composure of mind. That he was blameless or sinless it would be arrogant presumption to assert; but oh! how many clamorous and pretending professors would his life put to shame!

Mr Wilson's funeral took place on Thursday the 4th of August. In the forenoon the inhabitants of the town met, and resolved to attend the funeral as a public mark of respect to the deceased. Accordingly a considerable number attended, ranged themselves in double row at the south gate, and let the company pass through, and then fell into the rear of the procession. The company was numerous and respectable. His body was laid beside that of his sister in the burying-ground belonging to Willowyard.

Immediately after the funeral, the relatives returned to Crummock, when Mr Wilson's settlements were produced and read. They consisted of three separate deeds. 1st.—He disponed his property of Crummock to Mrs Dobie and myself in conjunct fee and liferent, and gave us the whole furniture and other effects within and about the premises. He excepted his gold watch and snuff box, which he gave to his nephew, Mr Shedden. 2nd.—He disponed his property of Willowyard to Mr Shedden in liferent, and to the heirs of his body in fee; failing him and such heirs, the property was destined to my third son, William Wilson Dobie. The lands were immediately burdened with £2500 to his three nieces—Mrs Adam, Mrs Dobie, and Mrs Barr. The two first had power to uplift their shares of this money. While it remained unpaid it was to bear interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum. Mr Adam's *jus mariti* was excluded from his wife's share, and Mrs Barr was not to have power to uplift her share, which was to remain at the foresaid rate of interest during her life, and if she had

no children, the principal was to go to the families of her two sisters at her death, the females' shares to be double the amount of that to the males. If my son should succeed, he was burdened with about £1000 more to the two families. 3rd.—The whole personal estate was, by the other deed, conveyed to Dr Robert Patrick of Trearne (a gentleman of high character in whom Mr Wilson had great confidence, and for whom he had much respect), and to Mr Shedden and myself, as trustees and executors, the residue to be held in trust for behoof of the families of Mrs Adam and Mrs Dobie, the mothers to receive the interest during their lives, and at their death, the principal to be divided among their children, the females getting double of the males.

The special legacies were as follow:—To Charlotte Borland, £200; to Miss Glass, £350; to my son, William Wilson, £100; to William Jamieson (the testator's house-servant) £200; and to Donald Monro (the gardener) £50:—To the Poor he left £100, to be expended at the discretion of his trustees.

These rational and judicious deeds, the entire and uninfluenced dictate of Mr Wilson's own mind, gave great offence. As it was obvious that I could not act as agent on the trust estate of Mr Wilson without being the unceasing object of suspicion, I agreed, with the approbation of Dr Patrick, to resign the conduct of the affairs to Messrs Spier & Love, writers in Beith, whom I well knew and could implicitly trust. The funds in India were promptly remitted by Messrs Gilmore & Co., by bills on London at a favourable rate of

exchange. The house of Fairlie, Clark, Innes & Co. had, during Mr Wilson's lifetime, paid dividends amounting to 5/- in the pound, and afterwards a further dividend of $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. The other personal funds were easily ascertained, so that the affairs of the trust were very simple. The general estate yielded £6800, and after legacies, debts, and expenses a residue was left of £5000, giving £2500 to each of the two families, and leaving a small surplus of somewhat more than £100.

Mr Wilson's property, as left by him, may be thus stated.

The price of Willowyard was	£7,500
From an account kept by himself it appears that	
Crummock House, additions, repairs, furniture, plate, &c., had cost him in 1820, . . .	4,142
And his personal estate was	6,800
	£18,442

Considering Mr Wilson's munificence on many occasions, his general liberality, and the severe losses he sustained, it is to be wondered that he left property to near that amount. If he had not lost by Mr Adam and by Mr Fairlie's house, he would have been, as he would have called it, too rich. These losses amounted on the whole to £11,107, and if they be added to the amount of Mr Wilson's property, as above stated, but deducting the £3000 he got from his sister, the total would yield £26,549.

These statements are not made invidiously, but to show Mr Wilson's losses, and the equanimity with which he bore

them. With regard to that sustained by Mr Fairlie's house, it was so totally unlooked for, that on the day previous to their failure he would have entrusted his all with them. Mr Fairlie was his kinsman, they being related through the family of Moore of Bruntwood; and in India Mr Wilson had received great kindness and assistance from him. He lamented the fall of the house which had for so long a period been at the head of India commerce, and mourned more for others than for himself.

But let me now take up a more pleasing theme in gratefully acknowledging Mr Wilson's acts of generosity towards myself and my family. I take pleasure in recording them, and trust I shall never forget the frankness and kindness with which the gifts were bestowed. In 1816 he gave me twice £200. When I bought my house in the Strand, he gave me £200 to help to pay the price; and to pay the repairs, which proved expensive, he gave me £600. I well remember when he gave me the last £200 for the repairs, he asked me to speak with him in his bedroom at Crummock, which was then the low back room. He opened his desk, and taking out the notes, gave me them, saying, "Now, will this keep you all right?" To this I could make no reply. It has already been stated (p. 114) that he gave Mrs Dobie £100 from the money which Miss Wilson left him by her will. He followed me to the door, at Crummock, one evening, and said:—"These old houses I bought from James Wilson in Townhead are of no use to me. I wish to give them to you. Get any deed which is necessary prepared, and I will come down and sign

it." This was done. The disposition was prepared by Mr Spier. This property cost Mr Wilson £320. When I accounted with him for his share of Bogston's money, he gave me a balance of £150; and to aid me in paying the price of the Superiority of the Crummock Feus, he gave me £100. Thus, during his life, by his own spontaneous acts, he gave me, one way and another, £1870. By leaving me Crummock and its appurtenances, he gave me what had cost himself at least £4500. My wife and family succeed, by his other deeds, to £3400; so that, upon the whole, we have been partakers of his fortune to the extent of £9770. It is true that much of this, as capital, is unproductive. The property at Crummock and the house in the Strand would not realise near what they cost him, nor would they bring any adequate yearly return; but that is of no consequence in the present narrative, the purpose of which is to detail Mr Wilson's beneficence.

Such bounteous acts call for gratitude; but of all virtues gratitude is the most rare, and it seems foreign to the hearts of the generality of mankind. Surely it is not so with me, and I sincerely hope it will never be so with any of my family. I reflect, with equal pride and gratitude, on the kindness and friendship which subsisted so long between Mr Wilson and myself. He was truly my "guide, philosopher, and friend." I consulted him about everything I did. This he seemed always to like. He gave no random advices or opinions, but thought well of what was said to him, and his answers were always those of a well-informed, dispassionate, and enlightened mind.

Now that he is "for ever fled," it would be folly to express unavailing regret. I can recall his virtues; his conversations; and his character. I never walk in the garden or in the fields without remembering him: And,—"I sometimes visit his grave." These are all sources of pure reflection. I think of his kindness and his benevolence, and cast my thoughts beyond the enjoyments of this life, and dwell on the unmingled pleasures of those who are admitted to the immediate presence of God, and who are to serve Him day and night in His temple through an unceasing eternity.

ADDENDA.

POSTSCRIPT TO MEMOIR.

LETTER and MEMORANDA by Mr David Hunter, of Calcutta and London, to the Author after perusal of his Manuscript Volume.

"GREAT WINCHESTER STREET,
"LONDON, *24th August 1840.*

"MY DEAR SIR,

"I have now finished the perusal of my old friend Mr Wilson's life with much gratification, and now wait your directions in what manner to dispose of the MS. My mother and sisters, who were, likewise, all great friends of his, have been also much gratified with the perusal of your volume. I have put down some little trifles that occurred to me in reading it,—though there is scarcely any of them worth noticing,—chiefly from what I have heard him mention in conversation. I lived in his house for seventeen years, in all which time his habits were of the most simple, moderate, and regular kind possible, to which in a great measure the good health he always enjoyed is to be attributed.

"There was no public entertainment given on occasion of his leaving India,—such things were not so common then as they became afterwards:—Even his great and respected friend, Mr Fairlie, was not so complimented, although that honour was given afterwards to many who were not to be named in comparison with him and Mr Wilson.

"I should be inclined to wish that the family feuds in the latter part of the narrative could be softened down or omitted.—Believe me, my dear Sir,

"Yours very truly,

"DAV$^{D.}$ HUNTER."

"MEMORANDA occurring to me on perusal of Mr Dobie's Life of W. Wilson.

"Mr Wilson's equanimity and benevolence continued through life. His salary in Maryland was at first only £15 per annum. Yet he lived well—turkey and ham almost daily, boarding with a kind old lady. The youngest Store boy's duty was to sweep out the Store. Mr Wilson was relieved from that duty through the good nature of Peter Smith, his immediate predecessor. Both, but especially the latter, were much disturbed at being styled '*Store boys*' by the Planters. Mr W. used to laugh at his distresses.

"Page 9.—His employer in Virginia was Mr Adam Steuart—not Stewart, as spelt in the MS.—father of the present Mr William Steuart of Glenormiston.

"Pages 21-2-3.—From 1775 to 1778, a hiatus.—Mr Wilson always refused to join the Americans, and, when force was talked of, I have heard him say he told them plainly he would take the first opportunity of firing his musket at them, and making off to their adversaries.

"Page 54.—Mr Wilson was only nominally Purser of the *Phœnix*,—rated so in the Ship's books to enable him to get a passage to Calcutta,—permission to go out being, at that time, very difficult to be got. The real Purser was also on board, rated in some other capacity; and Mr Wilson used to tell us, with great good humour, that on his attending at the India House on some occasion, I think to get the Ship's Despatches, he was so little *au fait* at what was to be done on the occasion, that the Official, who was most likely aware of the whole manœuvre, said to him, with a smile, 'You had better take care of yourself, sir!' He received two months' pay on this occasion, at the rate of £4 a month, the whole of which went in fees at the different offices before he got out of the House,—the last half-crown being given to the doorkeeper.

"Page 105.—There is a little inaccuracy in the statement of Mr Wilson's property. The sum he left in India was 60,000 Rs., and it was not left in the hands of the Company, but with his old friend and assistant, D. Hunter, who remitted him the interest annually as mentioned; and also, many years afterwards, a large part of the principal by Mr Wilson's directions. This sum was considerably increased by a fortunate remittance in Produce, and was, by Mr Wilson's instructions, paid over on his account to the house of Fairlie, Bonham & Co., and subsequently in a great measure lost by the failure of that firm in 1833. The remainder of the property, originally left in D. Hunter's hands, was remitted in bills to the amount of about £5000, and paid over to Mr Wilson's executors after his demise.

"Page 140.—My name is mentioned in error. As I was at that time (July 1833) on my passage home from Calcutta, the communication mentioned must have been from my brother, or from the London house in which I was connected. I did not hear of Fairlie & Co.'s failure till I reached home in September 1833."

[David Hunter, the writer of the foregoing Letter and Memoranda, died in London, unmarried, in 1846. He was eldest son of Patrick Hunter, merchant in London, eldest son of David, third surviving son of Patrick Hunter of Hunterston. His mother was Rebecca, daughter of Charles Fleming, surgeon in the Royal Navy and afterwards in Irvine, by his wife Mary, only child of William Montgomery of Montgomery-field in the parish of Dreghorn, to which property she succeeded. The footnote (1) on page 90 of the Memoir is therefore in error. Dr Fleming's death, when in his 89th year, is noticed in the *Scots Magazine* of 1809, page 639, where, *inter alia*, it is said:—"Few men have maintained such a uniform excellency of character as this venerable old gentleman did through the course of a long life."—Ed.]

APPENDIX I.

SIMSON OF WILLOWYARD; AND MOORE OF BRUNTWOOD.

SIMSON OF WILLOWYARD.

JOHN SIMSON, merchant in Beith, proprietor of that part of the 10/- land of Auchengown called Above the Hill, part of the Five pound land of Auchengown-Stewart, on 6th June 1717, granted Disposition thereof to his son "Mr William Simson, merchant in Beith," who afterwards disponed his right to the lands to John Caldwell, vintner at Chelsea, in Middlesex. The Instrument of Sasine on their several infeftments is dated 1st October 1724,—John, Lord Semple, is Bailie, and Alexander Hamilton of Barr, William Park of Maynshill, the said Mr William Simson, and Robert Park, eldest son of the said William Park, are witnesses. John Simson had also a daughter, Margaret, who, on 4th April 1718, married William Clark, portioner of Shitterflat, son of Robert Clark and Janet Moore, relict of Mathew Montgomerie, younger of Bogstoun.

I. "Mr William Simson," merchant in Beith, has Feu right and Disposition in his favour, dated 18th December 1723, by Alexander, Earl of Eglintoun, of All and Haill the 20/- land of old extent of Willieyeards, with the tiends, parsonage, and vicarage therein included, "in so far as the same are conveyed in our favours by Mr Francis Montgomery of Giffan."

"Mr William Simson," who is invariably thus designed, probably

from having attained a degree at College, married, on 2nd February 1719, Barbara, eldest daughter of William Barclay of Warrix (see Memoir, p. 56), Provost of Irvine, and Martha, third daughter of Robert Barr of Trearne, by whom he had issue, an only child :—

Janet, born 26th July 1721, who married on 28th Nov. 1752, John Wilson, merchant in Kilmarnock, and one of the Bailies of that burgh. They had issue :—William, the subject of the foregoing Memoir, and others—*see* Appendix II. Janet is erroneously entered Jean in the Parish Register.

Mr Simson married, secondly, on 11th August 1726, Elizabeth, daughter of William Moore, younger of Bruntwood, in the Parish of Galston, and had issue :—

1. William, born in 1727, of whom afterwards.
2. Margaret, born *circa* 1729, who married, on 6th February 1752, Robert Shedden of Morishill (*q.v.*); and, secondly, James Wilson.
3. Elizabeth.

Mr Simson married, thirdly, on 23rd December 1736, Hannah Crochet, or Crokat, of Glasgow, by whom there was no issue.

On 12th December 1732, Mr Simson granted a Disposition of his lands of Willowyeards, with and under certain provisions, limitations, and restrictions, to his son William and his heirs, whom failing, to Janet, only daughter of his first marriage with Barbara Barclay, and Margaret and Elizabeth, the daughters of his second marriage, equally amongst them and their heirs; failing whom, to his, the granter's heirs and successors whomsoever,—but reserving his own liferent and power to revoke. The Disposition is dated at Bruntwood, the witnesses being William Moore, elder of Bruntwood, Robert Montgomerie of Bogstoun, and John Hamilton, writer in Machline, the writer thereof. In this Deed the first and second wives are mentioned as being deceased, and his son William is referred to as a minor, about five years of age. The Instrument

of Sasine, which followed on this Disposition, is dated 5th June 1767, and in it Mr William Simson is designed as deceased, so that he probably died in 1766, or early in 1767. He was succeeded by his son :—

II. William, who, on 10th March 1772, has a Precept of Clare Constat, by Alexander Montgomerie of Coilsfield and Alexander Fairlie of Fairlie, Commissioners for Archibald, Earl of Eglintoun, in his favour as only son and heir of the deceased Mr William Simson of Willieyards. Mr Simson appears to have been a man of expensive habits, kept race-horses, and was rather too fond of the society of the Royal burgh of Irvine. At his death his affairs had become so deeply involved that his son William was unable to retain the property. In order to get into business he went to London, whither his sister, Margaret, and her second husband, Mr James Wilson, had preceded him. A Minute of Sale was entered into on 15th January 1772, between William Simpson, therein designed of the parish of St Margaret, Westminster, oilman, and John Ker, of the City of London, merchant. On 10th November of that year John Ker assigned his right to John Neale, merchant in Edinburgh, and the transaction was completed by Disposition, dated 24th January 1777. In this Disposition the name is spelled "Simpson," and that of the lands is given as "Willowyards or Willieyards." The price paid is £1850. James Wilson, schoolmaster, in the parish of St Marylebone, is one of the witnesses subscribing. On the 27th January and 4th February 1804, a Contract of Sale is entered into between John Neall and Robert Steel, residing in Port-Glasgow, the price agreed on being £6000 sterling. John and Robert Duncan are mentioned as tenants of the lands, and John Niven and Alexander Kennedy as tacksmen of the coals. The transaction is completed by Disposition, dated 15th May. Instrument of Sasine on 20th May—recorded at Ayr, 6th June 1804.

On the death, in November 1797, of Alexander Nisbet, N.P., and sometime Town Clerk of Irvine, William Simpson was left a legacy of £50. In the receipt therefor Mr Nisbet is called his "great uncle,"—he having married Anne, daughter of William Moore, elder of Bruntwood.

William Simpson married and had issue—a son and two daughters —whose history is uncertain.

William Wilson, son of Janet Simson and John Wilson, purchased the lands of Willowyard from Mr Steel. The Disposition is dated on the 11th May 1833, the price paid being £7500, and Mr Wilson thus reacquired the property of his grandfather, the Feuar of 1723.

Mr Wilson was succeeded by his nephew, Alexander Shedden. *See* Shedden of Morishill.

WILLOWYARD, or WILLIEYEARDS, formed part of the Abbey lands of Kilwinning. About the time of the Reformation it had been acquired by the Montgomeries of Hazlehead. On 25th September 1602, Robert Montgomerie of Hazlehead is retoured heir of his grandfather, Robert Montgomerie, in the 20/- land of old extent of Willieyeards, in the barony of Beith, regality of Kilwinning, and bailiary of Cuninghame. The lands passed, probably along with or about the same time as the estate of Hazlehead, to the Honourable Francis Montgomerie of Giffin, and from him to his nephew, Alexander, 9th Earl of Eglintoun, who granted the Feu Disposition, in 1723, to Mr William Simson, above recited.

The present mansion house of Willowyard, consisting of two storeys and garrets, was probably built by Mr William Simson soon after the date of the Feu right, and both in regard to style and accommodation is very much in advance of the homesteads on properties of greater extent in the parish at that period. On the lowest corbie step in the north-east angle of the north gable

are cut the figures 7271, which, on being reversed, become 1727, corresponding with the date of the birth of Mr William Simson's only son and heir. Whether the misplacement of the numerals was accidental or, in some freak, done purposely to puzzle the uninitiated, there is nothing extant or handed down to determine. The farm steading, forming three sides of a square, is detached, and at some little distance from the house, but connected by the high garden wall. The garden and orchard, which has originally been laid off with considerable taste, extends in front and to the right of the house, and is intersected by the Willowyard Burn on its course from Braidinhill to Kilbirnie Loch. Some fine old trees in the plantation in the further end of the enclosure and also lining the approach, which would seem, from their size, to have been planted during the ownership of the Montgomeries of Hazlehead or Giffin, give the place an air of antiquity, and add very much to its picturesque amenity. In 1890 three of those trees—beeches—measured in girth as follow:—No. 1, at two feet from the ground, 11 feet 4 inches; at three feet, 10 feet and half an inch; and at four feet, 9 feet 9 inches. No. 2, at same distances from the ground, measured 10 feet, 9 feet 8 inches, and 9 feet. No. 3,—9 feet, and 8 feet 9 inches, the other measurement not taken.

In 1891 the dairy accommodation was enlarged and the steading otherwise improved, excellent water being brought in by gravitation, from springs in the fields of Morishill, by the present proprietor; and the mansion house was re-roofed and thoroughly repaired, exteriorly and interiorly, by him in 1893.

In the "General View of the Agriculture of Ayrshire," by William Aiton, Glasgow, 1811, in the section treating on Roads, it is said in a note, page 553—"The first carts that were used in Ayrshire were in laying down the materials of which the bridge over the water of Irvine, between Kilmarnock and Riccarton, was built in 1726." Mr Robert Craig of King Cottage, near Beith, a well-

known local geologist and corresponding member of the Geological Society of Glasgow, who in his young days had assisted his father when lessee of the lime quarries of Langside, near Trearne, and afterwards became lessee of the same quarries along with his elder brother, has often heard from some old men residing in the neighbourhood in the early part of the century (viz., William Snodgrass in Townhead of Braidstane, John Barbour, quarryman, and James Galt, carter, who in his young days had been ploughboy at Willowyard), that they all remembered hearing that the first horse-cart introduced into the parish was that used at Willowyard, probably about 1750.

MOORE, OR MOOR, OF BRUNTWOOD.

THE MOORES OF BRUNTWOOD were considered to be cadets of the Rouallan family, and were well connected by marriages. The notices regarding them, however, are very fragmentary. Robertson, who writes the name Mure, in his *Ayrshire Families* (Vol. II., p. 255), only notices two William Moores, elder and younger, and their connection with the Montgomeries of Bogston; and that in 1681 William Moore of Bruntwood married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mungo Campbell of Nether-place. It would appear, however, that there were three William Moores in succession:—1st, William, whose eldest daughter, Janet, married Mathew Montgomerie, younger of Bogston, in 1682; 2nd, William, "elder," who married, in 1681, Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mungo Campbell of Nether-place, and whose daughter, Elizabeth, married Robert of Bogston in 1706; and 3rd, William, "younger," whose daughter, Elizabeth, married Mr Simson of Willowyard in 1726. From genealogical notes collected by Mr Dobie,—William Moore, younger, was succeeded by . . . .

Moore, surgeon in the army, who, dying without issue, was succeeded by his brother Francis, coppersmith in Glasgow, who sold the property.

In the Bogston writs there is a Contract of Marriage, dated 24th November 1713, betwixt Mungo Moor, merchant in Kilmarnock, and Mary, daughter of the late John Findlay, merchant there, the witnesses to which are Bogstoun, James Wilson, William Findlay, Bruntwood, and Mr John Adam, student in Theology. They had a daughter, Agnes, who married John Fairlie, coppersmith in Kilmarnock, whose son, William Fairlie, became partner of John Ferguson & Co., of Calcutta. Mr Fairlie married Margaret, daughter of Captain Ogilvy (brother of Sir . . . Ogilvy of Airthrie, in Aberdeenshire), and had issue—1st, John; and 2nd, James Ogilvy Fairlie, who succeeded to Coodham, in the parish of Symington.

APPENDIX II.

MONTGOMERIE OF BOGSTOUN.

In Mr Dobie's account of the earlier members of the family, given in the *Memoir*, an oversight is committed in not noting that Robert, the feuar of Bogstoun, could not have been the son, but must have been the grandson, of Mathew Montgomerie, in Braidstane. As in 1622 Robert, the son of Mathew, was living in Bogstoun, and apart from his father, he may then be presumed to have been of age, and to have been born *circa* 1600. Had he been the same person who feued Bogstoun in 1663, he must, as will afterwards be seen, have transacted business when he was one hundred and eight years old, and have died at or about the age of one hundred and thirteen. The Bogstoun Writs—an abstract of which, in the handwriting of the late Dr Andrew Crawfurd of Johnshill, Lochwinnoch, a well-known antiquarian and genealogist, is preserved in *Beith Papers* (Vol. VII., No. 4)—do not extend much further back than the date of the Feu Charter, and throw little or no light on the previous family history. The Parish Register of Births, Baptisms, and Marriages (from which Mr Dobie took the excerpts now to be found in his *Beith Papers*, Vol. II., Nos. 10 and 11), the oldest volume of which, unfortunately, does not extend further back than 1659, was found to be very imperfect, some leaves being misplaced, and some years altogether omitted or awanting—the births and baptisms and the proclamation of banns[1] being sometimes kept distinct, and sometimes entered together. Blanks occur from 1662 to 1673, from 1685 to 1690, and from 1694 to 1711; a second volume begins in 1701, and ends in 1794. There is, therefore, consider-

[1] The solemnising of the marriage is sometimes added, and there appears, generally, to have been three weeks between the proclamation and the marriage The dates, as quoted, are therefore subject to that variation.

able uncertainty in regard to the family of the first Robert, as they do not appear in the Register; but from the indubitable fact of Robert the feuar's eldest son, Mathew, having been married in 1682, as recorded in the Bogstoun Writs, and, after becoming the father of two children, having died, in 1685 or 1686, at the early age of twenty-seven, the date of Mathew's birth is very nearly ascertained, and a clue is also given to the probable date of his father's birth and marriage.

It may here be premised that the dates of births or baptisms and marriages, where written in full, are from the Parish Register, if a reference is not otherwise given. The Charters and other legal documents are quoted from the Bogstoun Writs, or from the Inventories of Titles, &c., in *Beith Papers*.

I. MATHEW MONTGOMERIE.—In 1622 John Swan, younger, in Milne of Beith, granted bond for eight score merks to Mathew Montgomerie, in Braidstane, and Robert Montgomerie, in Bogstoun, his son. The bond (written by Robert Peebles, Notary Public, is subscribed at the Park of Castell-Sempill, on 7th November 1622, the witnesses being John Stewart, in Morshill, and Archibald Dunlop, in Braidstane) is recorded, on 16th December 1624, in the Books of the Regality Court of Kilwinning (Vol. I.)

II. ROBERT, "in Bogstoun," married and had issue:—

1. Robert, of whom afterwards.
2. Margaret, married John, son of Gavin Dunsmure, who, in 1663, feued the 33/- land of Brownhills, in the Barony of Giffin. They had a grant of the lands from his father, dated 14th July 1666.

III. ROBERT, of Bogstoun, who has a Feu-right and Disposition of the 20/- land of auld extent of Bogstoun, and the half merk land of auld extent of Corshoill, in the Lordship and Barony of Giffine, granted in his favour by Hugh, Earl of Eglintoun, with consent of

Alexander, Lord Montgomerie, his eldest son, dated at Eglintoun and Hesilhead, 5th and 18th June 1663. Infeftment followed on 19th June, Robert Montgomerie of Hesilhead being bailie, and Alexander, son of Hew Montgomerie of Silverwood, a subscribing witness. In this charter Giffin Miln is referred to as "to be biggit." Robert Montgomerie also acquired the 14/- land of Craighouse, and a part of Marsheland, from John Rankin, and had a Charter of Resignation in his favour by Sir John Shaw, younger, of Greenock, dated 21st October 1678. On 26th October 1693 he has a Feu Contract and Disposition by Mr Francis Montgomerie of Giffin (to whom the Barony of Giffin had been granted in 1669 by his father, Hugh, seventh Earl of Eglintoun) of the 40/- land of the Barrs in favour of himself and Daniel Montgomerie, the second son of his second marriage with umquhile Janet Montgomerie, and the heirs of the said Daniel, whom failing, to Robert, his eldest son by his second marriage; but full power is reserved to him to alter this destination without the consent of the other parties. On 31st July 1702 he, with consent of the foresaid Daniel, disponed a 20/- land of the lands of the Barrs [now known as North Bar] to his grandson, Robert, only son of Mathew (see below).

Robert Montgomerie was Chamberlain of Giffin under the Earl of Eglintoun in 1669 and 1672, and Baron Bailie from 1677 to 1681. On 21st January 1679 he was, by the Court of Session, appointed factor on the adjudicated estate of the deceased Robert Montgomerie of Hesilhead, and he held bonds to a considerable amount from John Ker of Kersland and Thomas Boyd of Pitcon.

He married, *circa* 1655, Ann, eldest daughter and afterwards heiress of John Harvie of Braidlie, in the parish of Dalry, by whom he had issue:—

1. Janet, who married, 23rd January 1675, John Wilson of Bowfield, in the parish of Lochwinnoch.
2. Mathew, born *circa* 1658, of whom afterwards.

3. John, born *circa* 1659, married, in 1687, Margaret, daughter of . . . Gilmour of Nether-Kirktoun, in the parish of Neilstoun, who had half of these lands as her tocher. In 1691 he had a Disposition from his father of the lands of Braidlie. Hence the Montgomeries of Braidlie, now represented in direct descent by James Barclay Montgomerie of Braidlie and Easterhills, F.R.C.S. (Edin.), and M.R.C. Phys. (London), residing in Penzance.

Robert, the feuar, married, secondly, *circa* 1660, Janet, daughter of Robert Montgomerie in Giffin, and by her had issue :—

1. Jean, born 15th May 1661 ; married, 31st July 1680, Robert Muire of Eastwood.
2. Robert, born *circa* 1662 ; married, 15th December 1683, Margaret, daughter of Robert Peebles, merchant in Beith (brother of John Peebles of Crawfield). On 12th September 1694, he had a grant of the lands of Craighouse from his father. Hence the Montgomeries of Craighouse.
3. Daniel, conjoint feuar with his father in 1693 of the lands of the Barrs, see *ante*, married Ann, daughter of James Bannatyne of Kelly. He afterwards acquired Auchentiber, in the parish of Kilwinning.
4. Hugh, who first settled in the parish of Dunlop. Subsequent history uncertain.
5. Patrick, baptised 30th January 1676.
6. Isobel, baptised 22nd April 1677.
7. Francis, baptised 30th November 1679.

Robert, the feuar, married, thirdly, Margaret Campbell, relict of John Thomsone in Sorne. The contract of marriage is dated in September 1684, to which Mungo Campbell of Netherplace and Mr Hew Campbell of Corshill are subscribing witnesses. The jointure settled on her was 100 merks, and her tocher was three score pounds. Of this marriage there was no issue.

A fourth marriage was entered into with Mary Sempill, relict of William Caldwell, merchant, Kilmarnock, on 8th August 1706, of which also there was no issue.

The death of the feuar is not recorded, but there is evidence in the Bogstoun Writs that he transacted business and assigned bonds in January 1706, February 1707, and in 1708. His grandson having had his Precept of Clare Constat early in 1714, the feuar probably died about 1713.

IV. MATHEW, "younger of Bogstoun," married, in 1682, Janet, eldest daughter of William Moore of Bruntwood, when, "for observation of the contract of marriage," his father granted them one-half of his lands of Bogstoun and Corsehoill. The charter is subscrivit at Kilmernock on 14th July 1682, the witnesses being William Hamiltoun de Ladyland, Mr Mathew Campbell de Wattirhaugh, George Montgomerie de Brimlands, and George Garven, writer in Irvine. In this charter Giffin Mylne is mentioned as "*nuper edificat.*"

Mathew was a stout athletic man, and anecdotes were handed down of his prowess. It is said that he overpowered and killed two of Claverhouse's dragoons in a bog near Bogstoun, and on another occasion he escaped from two soldiers at the Church of Beith, who had come in to apprehend him. He had issue:—

1. Robert, baptised 7th October 1683, of whom afterwards.
2. Margaret, baptised 22nd November 1685, married, *circa* 1706, John Shedden, II., of Marsheland. Her tocher was 2000 merks Scots.

Mathew Montgomerie died *circa* 1685-6, at the early age of twenty-seven. His relict married, *circa* 1687, Robert Clerk of Shitterflat; issue:—a daughter, Mary, and a son, William, afterwards of Shitterflat. It is said she married, thirdly, John Crawfurd of Birkheid.

V. ROBERT succeeded his father and grandfather. On 15th May 1714 he has a Precept of Clare Constat by Mr Francis Montgomerie

of Giffine in his favour, as only son and heir of the deceased Mathew Montgomerie, upon which he is infeft on the 25th of that month and year. Robert Dobie, chamberlain to the said Mr Francis of Giffine, is a subscribing witness to the Precept. As before noticed, Robert Montgomerie had, in 1702, received a Disposition from his grandfather of a 20/- land of his lands of the Barrs, upon which he was infeft 22nd November 1704. Instrument of Sasine registered at Ayr, 17th January 1705. In 1706 he entered into a contract of marriage with his cousin, Elizabeth, daughter of William Moore of Bruntwood by his wife, Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mungo Campbell of Netherplace, and infefted her in his 20/- land of Barr. The contract is subscribed at Bruntwood, 23rd November 1706. The witnesses were Francis Moore, in Bruntwood, William Moore, younger thereof, and John M'Allan, notar in Galston: Her tocher was 1000 merks Scots. By her he had issue:—

1. Robert, born 4th February 1708.
2. Mathew, born 9th December 1709.
3. Janet, born 4th January 1713.
4. Robert, born 2nd July 1716.
5. Margaret, born 17th August 1717, of whom afterwards.
6. James, born 11th September 1718.
7. Elizabeth, born 17th May 1721; married John Drummond, General Supervisor of Excise, and had two sons, Robert, born 1751, and John (of "facetious memory"), born 1753, who both died unmarried; and a daughter, Jean, born 1748, who married Mr David Allison of the Grammar School, Glasgow, and had a son, Robert, ensign in the 90th Regiment, who married, but died without issue.
8. Mary, born 8th March 1723.
9. Susannah, born 7th May 1726, was celebrated for her beauty, and married Robert Montgomerie of Craighouse, surgeon in Beith.

10. Janet, born 5th November 1727.
11. Janet, born 11th January 1730.
12. William, born 30th April 1731.

These, and some others who do not appear in the Register, made a total of eighteen children, all of whom died young or unmarried, excepting Margaret, Elizabeth, and Susannah, as above noted.

Robert Montgomerie married, secondly, Mrs Jean Welsh, residing at Sorn Castle. The contract of marriage is subscribed at Bruntwood, 4th December 1755. Her tocher was £100 sterling, and she had a jointure settled on her of 300 merks Scots, and a dwelling-house in Beith. The bride's scone was prepared at Bruntwood, the seasoning for which, as per account rendered by John Fairlie, Kilmarnock, consisted of:—"Orange pile, 2/-; ½ lb. citron, 1/6; 1 lb. almonds, 1/2; 1 drop cloves, 1½d.; and cinamon, 1½d." Of this marriage there was no issue.

Robert Montgomerie was made an elder of the kirk in 1710. He was Procurator-Fiscal of Giffin Baron-Court, factor to the Earl of Eglintoun over the lands and baronies of Robertland, Dreghorn, Paroch of Beith, Ladyland, Mainshill, West Port of Linlithgow, Lyan-Cross, Braidlie-Dalry, Kirkland-Stewarton, and Crawfield. On 7th December 1730, he acquired from David Snodgrass, merchant in Gorbals, two portions of the lands of Nether-Grie, amounting to a 16/6 land. On 4th January 1754, he was appointed factor to Sir John Anstruther, who had then acquired the barony of Giffin.

Among the Bogstoun Writs there is an account rendered by Andrew Wilson, wright, in Beith, in 1756, one item of which is:—"To a wheelbarrow bot the trintle, 3/-;" on which Dr Crawfurd, of Lochwinnoch, has a note, that this proves Semple, the Renfrewshire historian, to have been in error in asserting that this useful article was "introduced to this neighbourhood by Mr M'Dowal of Castle-Sempill, at the deepening of the Black-Cart, in order to drain Lochwinnoch Loch, about the year 1773." An earlier notice, however, of

the wheelbarrow than either of these appears in an account for ironwork to the burgh of Irvine, dated 18th November 1680.—*Vide* Ayr and Galloway Archæological Association's volume for 1891, page 287.

Robert Montgomerie died at Bogstoun early in 1766.

VI. MARGARET, eldest surviving daughter of the foregoing. Robert, married, on 17th February 1737, John Wilson, eldest son of James Wilson, merchant in Kilmarnock, and Margaret, daughter of John Findlay, merchant there (see *Memoir*, page 2).

As noted in the Family Bible and holograph of John Wilson, their issue was :—

1. "Robert, born 27th November 1737," of whom afterwards.
2. "Margaret, born 10th January 1740; died 16th July 1745."
3. "Elizabeth, born 16th October 1741," lived with her brother at Bogstoun, and died, unmarried, from the effects of a fall down-stairs, at Crummock, on 14th January 1822.
4. "James, born 24th March 1744; died 12th January 1759."
5. "Margaret, born 2nd February 1747; died . . . April 1754."
6. "Mary, born 29th May 1750;" married, at Bogstoun, 26th April 1784, Robert Borland, M.D., Kilmarnock. Dr Borland had previously gone to Jamaica, where he practised his profession, and also became a planter. He returned there with his wife, and had issue :—
    1. Euphemia, born in 1785, and died at Kilmarnock, 1st September 1792.
    2. Robert Montgomerie, born in 1788, of whom afterwards.

On their homeward passage, in 1791, Mrs Borland died, and was buried at sea on the 24th of June. Dr Borland, in July 1792, married, secondly, ... , daughter of Gilbert M'Clure, merchant in Ayr, and had issue :—two children, who died young.

Margaret Montgomerie died on 27th December 1750; and John Wilson married, secondly, on 28th November 1752, Janet, eldest daughter of Mr William Simson of Willowyard, by Barbara, eldest daughter of William Barclay of Warrix, by whom, as noted in the Bible record beforementioned, he had issue:—

1. "William, born 22nd June 1754," the subject of the *Memoir* (*q.v.*), died, unmarried, at Crummock, on 30th July 1836, aged 82, universally esteemed and respected by the community.
2. "John, born 4th March 1756; died 26th November 1757."
3. "Barbara, born 26th May 1758;" married John Shedden of Morishill. (See Shedden of Morishill.)
4. "Janet, born 26th January 1760;" died at Crummock, 29th August 1834, unmarried.
5. "John, born 8th March 1762; died 4th May 1764."
6. "Margaret, born 8th March 1764; died 22nd March 1768."
7. "Jean, born 29th February 1768;" died in July 1772.

John Wilson died suddenly, in Kilmarnock, on 5th November 1770, Mrs Wilson having predeceased him on 18th November 1769.

VII. Robert Wilson, by special destination under the Deed of Settlement of his grandfather, Robert Montgomerie, succeeded to Bogstoun and Corshole on condition of assuming the family name. He was served heir of provision in 1766, and was thereafter known as Robert Montgomery. Some years previously (in 1757) he had gone out to America, where he became a merchant in Alexandria, in Virginia, and remained there for nine years. Hearing of his grandfather's failing health and anxiety that he should come home, he wound up his affairs as speedily as possible, and returned, in 1766, to find the old gentleman had been gathered to his fathers. After his accession he resided at Bogston, and commenced improving his property. He subdivided the lands into suitable enclosures, planted belts of forest trees, and made an approach from the high road to the

house about one-third of a mile in length. In 1775 he built a new mansion house, small, but comfortable, which, with the exception of Giffin, Hazelhead, Caldwell, and, possibly, Woodside, was the earliest house in the parish of Beith to have a slated roof, Morishill being the next. It was surrounded on two sides by a large and well-stocked orchard, protected on its outskirts by a belt of forest trees, interspersed with lilacs and laburnums, beneath which, in their season, flourished a golden mass of daffodils, in bright contrast to the black inhabitants of the rookery on the tree tops. This rookery he prided himself on, it being the only instance in the parish of these birds having been *induced* to form a new settlement. The flower garden contiguous to the house was adorned with rhododendrons and a variety of evergreen shrubs, then rare in the district; and on the open green or lawn facing the front of the house stood a fine old yew tree, planted, not improbably, by the first feuar of Bogston, or it might be even at an earlier date. The following measurements of this tree were made in 1874:—At three feet from the ground the circumference of the stem was 9 feet 10 inches, and it rose straight and undivided to the height of 7 feet 6 inches. The total height was 38 feet 1 inch, and the spread of its branches where they swept to the ground 50 feet 6 inches in diameter.

Mr Montgomery was uniformly styled "Bogston," as his grandfather had been before him, a custom now almost obsolete, but then common among landed proprietors. In 1783 he was appointed a Justice of the Peace, the duties of which office he discharged with great uprightness and impartiality. During his long life he took an active interest in all parochial affairs, and was noted for the independence and strict integrity of his character, as well as for his social urbanity and politeness. He was a great lover of music, and never lost the opportunity of hearing the opera in Glasgow or Edinburgh. He played the German flute with accuracy and taste, and had a spinet in the house for his sisters, who lived with him. In 1814, when in his

seventy-seventh year, at the request of his nephew, his portrait was taken by Sir Henry Raeburn, a striking likeness, and, of course, an excellent painting. On the back of the canvas was written, in Bogston's own hand:—"Robert W. Montgomery—77—Raeburn pinxit. The property of R. M. Borland" (see afterwards). For many years he had been in the habit of visiting his brother, William Wilson, at Crummock almost daily, walking home in the evening; but age began to tell, and in 1824 he yielded, though very reluctantly, to the entreaties of his brother, and took up his abode with him at Crummock. On 9th December 1827, his ninetieth birthday, after dinner he sang "Rule, Britannia," with wonderful spirit. At last his allotted span was reached, and on 26th December 1832, he slipped gently away, having attained the great age of ninety-five years and seventeen days. It was remarked that after his death the crows forsook the rookery at Bogston.

VIII. Robert Montgomerie Borland, only son of Bogston's sister, Mary, and Dr Borland, served his apprenticeship as a Writer to the Signet in Edinburgh, but did not follow out his profession. In 1815 he married Charlotte, daughter of . . . . Roche of Youghall, in the County of Waterford. He died in Glasgow on 29th July, and was buried in the crypt of Dr Mitchell's church in Wellington Street, on 1st August 1829. He left issue:—

1. Robert Montgomerie, born in 1816, of whom below.
2. Charlotte, born . . . , of whom afterwards.

On 11th November following, his widow married, at Cork, Captain S. W. Mayne of the 88th Regiment of Foot.

IX. Robert Borland Montgomerie succeeded to Bogston and Corshole under his grand-uncle's Deed of Settlement, in accordance with which he took the name of Montgomerie in addition to his own patronymic. He was then a minor, about sixteen years of age.

His mother and Captain Mayne having taken up their residence in Belgium, he was educated at Brussels. After coming of age he visited Beith, in 1842, and began the evil practice of borrowing money on the property. Returning to the Continent, he took up his abode at Malmedy, in Rhenish Prussia, and, at his request, the portrait by Sir Henry Raeburn was sent to him in February 1846. Before doing so, however, a copy of it, with his consent, was made by Mr George Fillans, of Paisley, and, as a tribute to the memory of Mr Montgomery, was hung in the *Walhalla* of the Beith Town Hall. A tablet attached bore the inscription following:—

"THE PORTRAIT OF

"ROBERT MONTGOMERY, ESQUIRE, OF BOGSTON.

"He was eldest son of Bailie John Wilson, merchant in Kilmarnock, by Margaret, eldest daughter of Robert Montgomerie of Bogston, and was born at Kilmarnock on 27th November 1737, and died at Crummock, 25th December 1832.

"A number of friends and admirers of Mr Montgomery, considering that a tribute of respect ought to be paid to the memory of one who had not only long and faithfully discharged his duty as a Magistrate, and given a considerable share of his time and attention to the general interests of the Parish, but also for the integrity and independent feeling which had characterised all his transactions during a long life, were desirous of having his portrait placed in this Hall, the expense to be defrayed by subscription. Accordingly, this portrait, copied by Mr George Fillans, artist, from the original by Sir Henry Raeburn, was placed here on 8th November 1843."

To this inscription it has been necessary to add the following:—

"The dark colours composing the figure and background of the Painting having almost entirely given way, while, fortunately, the head and features remained uninjured, the portrait was cleaned, restored, and reframed by Messrs Doig & M'Kechnie, of Edinburgh, at the expense of John Shedden-Dobie of Morishill, in 1891."

Robert Borland Montgomerie died, unmarried, at Malmedy, on 3rd June 1847, and was succeeded by his sister.

X. CHARLOTTE, who married, in 18 . . , Jean Paul Decker, of Cologne. The property was sold by her, on 9th August 1848, to Mrs Margaret Gibson or Spier, relict of Robert Spier, writer and bank agent in Beith, and now forms part of the foundation endowment of Spier's School. Mrs Decker died in Hamburg in 18 . . , her husband having predeceased her, and their only child, a daughter, Charlotte, along with the Raeburn portrait, was taken charge of by her father's relatives in Prussia.

After the sale, the mansion house and offices of Bogston were converted into a farm steading. The fruit trees of its neglected orchard have died out, its evergreens have disappeared, and the venerable yew tree in the midst of the garden has for some years been showing symptoms of decay on one side from exposure to unaccustomed blasts, the belt of forest trees that gave it shelter from the south-west having been cut down.

Eheu! It gives relief to come to an end of this narrative of the decline and fall of the so long happy and respected home of "Bogston."

APPENDIX III.

SHEDDEN OF MARSHELAND; OF ROUGHWOOD; AND OF MORISHILL.

In the short account of the above families given in the foregoing *Memoir*, Mr Dobie appears to have followed the erroneous version published by Mr George Robertson in his *Ayrshire Families*, notwithstanding that he had in his possession ample means of furnishing a correct account with regard to the older heads in the pedigrees. Mr Robertson's information had been supplied by Mr William Patrick of Roughwood, W.S., and a correspondence ensued between Mr Dobie and Mr Patrick on the subject, ending in a letter from the latter in which he acknowledged the error that had been committed; but considered that as it had already been printed by Mr Robertson (a mutual friend), it would not be treating him courteously to insist on having the printed pages cancelled. Unfortunately Mr Dobie allowed his urbanity and complaisance to get the better of his desire for accuracy. Mr Patrick's account remained as published by Mr Robertson, and Mr Dobie afterwards felt himself constrained to follow it.

After careful investigation of the Parish Registers, Inventories, and various other documents and MS. notes contained in Mr Dobie's *Beith Papers* and elsewhere, a more correct account of the earlier history of the families is here given. The births, baptisms, or marriages, where written in full, are from the Parish Register if not otherwise noted, and where *circa* occurs there is a hiatus in the Register.

SHEDDEN OF MARSHELAND.

I. JOHN SHEDDEN, designed "of Hazlehead-toun," acquired the 14/- land of Marsheland in the parish of Beith and Regality of Kilwinning by Disposition from John and Hugh Lyles dated 27th May 1686, on which he is infeft and has Charter of Confirmation by Sir John Shaw of Greenock, on same date. He also acquired from Hugh Lyle the 32 penny land of Marsheland commonly called Erestoun's Mailling, or Burnside of Marsheland.

He married . . . . and had issue :—

1. John, baptised 31st December 1676, of whom afterwards.
2. Robert, baptised 10th August 1679, who afterwards acquired a wadset, or redeemable right, over the lands of Roughwood.
3. William, baptised 22nd February 1691.
4. James, born *circa* 1694; married, 24th December 1714, Marion Brown in Gabrochhill, in the parish of Stewarton.

II. JOHN, who succeeded to Marsheland. On 17th November 1746 he granted a Disposition of the lands, under reservation of his liferent use of certain houses and fields, to his eldest son John, designed "younger of Marsheland;" and on 31st July 1756 he has a Precept of Clare Constat by John Stewart Shaw of Greenock, with consent of Sir Michael Stewart, his father and administrator in law, in his favour, in which he is designed "elder of Marsheland, as heir of the said John Shedden of Hazlehead-toun, his father." He was elected an elder of the Church in 1710, and is one of the deputation appointed on 28th June 1727 by the Presbytery of Irvine to perambulate and value the lands of Mainshill about to be excambied by the Earl of Eglintoun for the old Glebe of Beith.

He married, *circa* 1706, Margaret, only daughter of Matthew Montgomerie, younger of Bogstoun, and had issue :—

1. John, born *circa* 1707-8, of whom afterwards.

2. Robert, born 5th October 1709, afterwards of Morishill (*q.v.*)
3. Mathew, born 15th February 1712. He is a witness to the infeftment following upon a Disposition in Security by Hugh Stevenson of Threepwood to his wife and younger children on 14th August 1744.
4. James, born 12th July 1716.
5. Margaret, born 27th June 1720.
6. Thomas, born 24th August 1721.
7. Elizabeth, born 5th May 1724.

There were two other daughters whose names do not appear on the Register, viz., Mary and Janet, but are mentioned below.

III. JOHN, who had the Disposition from his father as above noted, possessed the lands during his father's lifetime, and was infeft on 26th June 1749. He has Charter of Confirmation by John Stewart Shaw of Greenock, Esquire, with consent of Sir Michael Stewart, his father and administrator, on 31st July 1756. He had previously acquired, on 4th November 1748, from John Shedden of Headrighead (eldest son and heir of James Shedden of Palmermyre and Janet Fleming, the previous owners), a dwelling-house in Marsheland and yeard thereto belonging and one acre of land, and also an acre of land of the Mains of Braidstane, which were not included in the two Dispositions first beforementioned. He also acquired, on 22nd November 1752, from Neil Snodgrass, writer, the four 12/- lands of Tounhead of Braidstane, which lands he sold to his brother, Robert Shedden of Morishill, on 26th November 1757. The death of John Shedden, elder of Marsheland, is not recorded, but he seems to have died about 1765, and John Shedden, younger, has a Precept of Clare Constat by John Shaw Stewart, Esquire of Greenock, for infefting him as heir of the deceased John Shedden, elder, in the houses and lands reserved in liferent as beforementioned, which is dated 9th December 1785. The property was soon thereafter sold by John, younger, with consent of William Spier of

Deepstone, as trustee for himself the said John Shedden and Mary, Janet, and Margaret Shedden, his sisters, to Robert Service, farmer in Bigholm, the Disposition being dated 26th December 1785.

John Shedden, younger, familiarly known as "The Lang Laird," married Mary, daughter of Hugh Stevenson of Townend of Threepwood, and had issue :—

1. Barbara, who married William Spier of Deepstone, and had one daughter, who succeeded to Deepstone and married William Service—issue :—four daughters.
2. Margaret, born 13th April 1746, who married John Caldwell and had one daughter.
3. Mary, who married Robert Muir, younger of Balgray, and afterwards John Harvie—no issue by either marriage. She was liferented in Balgray, where she died in October 1844. Her little poly "fleckit cow," which continued giving abundance of milk for seven or eight years without having another calf, and the annual roup of her fields have been celebrated in a volume of *Poems by Andrew Aitken*, Kilmarnock : M'Kie, 1873.
4. Janet, who married David Muir in Smithston of Auchenmade.
5. Elizabeth, who married William Wylie, cloth merchant in Beith, and had issue, William, architect, and Mathew, M.D.
6. John, born 25th April 1756, familiarly known as "Jack the Marsheland." He was a tall powerful man and a notorious poacher, see *Memoir*, page 131. He found it prudent to retire into England for a time, and was employed on a large estate in that country as head gamekeeper, where he saved a considerable sum of money. On his return he acquired the *alias* of "The Gem-keeper." He married Mary Raeside, but had no issue, and died about 1836. In compliance with a previous compact between him and his

compeer with the gun, Thomas Stevenson, that the survivor should fire off his gun over the grave of the other, the "richt and left" was duly performed by Tom to the consternation of the worthy and Revd. George Colville (afterwards D.D.), then minister of the parish.

Robert Service, who bought Marsheland, was succeeded by his son, Robert Service "of Bogside," who, on 19th July 1816, granted a Trust Disposition in favour of George Rutherford and others for behoof of his creditors, and the lands were purchased in 1817 and 1818 by Robert Spier, writer in Beith. The lands now form part of the Foundation endowment of Spier's School and the site upon which the buildings stand.

SHEDDEN OF ROUGHWOOD (Abridged).

I. Robert, second son of John Shedden of Hezilhead-toun and I. of Marsheland, was born at Upper-Hezilhead and baptised 10th August 1679. He became a merchant in Beith. On 28th March 1701 he acquired the 3/- land of Glenhead in the barony of Beltrees from William King, portioner of Glenhead, which he afterwards disponed to his eldest son, John Shedden, who has a Precept of Clare Constat by Col. William McDowal of Castle-sempil, dated 13th November 1732, in which both he and his father are designed merchants in Beith. John Shedden disponed the property on 29th October 1759 to William Allan in Barfod, and in the Disposition he is designed "John Shedden of Roughwood." Previous to this date Robert Shedden had acquired a wadset right from Mathew Hammill over his lands of Roughwood in security of advances made to him. Mathew was succeeded, in 1711, by his only son and heir, Hugh Hammill, who has a Precept of Clare Constat by Alexander, Earl of Eglinton, on 29th November of this year, but upon which he was not infeft till 10th December 1720. Hugh Hammill, on 23rd May

1713, confirmed the wadset right to Robert Shedden and to John, his eldest son. On 17th June 1720, an Intimation is given to Hugh Hammill, "now of Roughwood," by Catharine Peebles, relict of the deceased Mathew Hammill of Roughwood, protesting against the said Hugh Hammill redeeming the lands from the wadset right granted to Robert and John Sheddens to the prejudice of her liferent right to the Mains of Roughwood.

The Baron Courts continue to be held at Roughwood by Hugh Hammill or his bailies. A Court was held on 25th June 1724, when William Ralston of that Ilk acted as bailie for Hugh Hammill of Roughwood; and another Court is held in August 1725, when Henry Adam of Morshill is bailie for Hugh Hammill. At the Court held on 16th May 1740, Mr Robert Shedden of Nether-ward acts as bailie to John Shedden of Roughwood. In 1734 Hugh Hammill had renounced his right of redemption and disponed the lands irredeemably to John Shedden. In the Summons of Declarator and Improbation at the instance of Alexander, Earl of Eglinton, dated 10th August 1734, *inter alios*, are cited as defenders. ". . . Hammel of Ruchwood and John Shedden, merchant in Beith, for the lands of Ruchwood;"—"and the said John Shedden for houses and tenements in the town of Beith and certain portions of the old Gleib of Beith, with certain tenements and houses built thereon, and the lands of Easterbraehead, Townhead, Knockbuckle, Cumingsbraehead and Blairshouses," &c. These seem to have been acquired independently of Roughwood.

Who Robert Shedden married does not appear in the Register, there being a hiatus in the record from 1694 to 1711, but he had issue:—

1. Elizabeth, born *circa* 1700; married, "24th October 1719, George Brown of Knockmarloch in the parish of Riccarton."
2. John, born *circa* 1702, of whom hereafter.
3. Margaret, born 12th May 1704.

4. James, born 3rd December 1706.
5. William, born 19th August 1708; married, 24th January 1736, Beatrix, daughter of Robert Dobie, chamberlain of Giffin (Beatrix was born at Hazlehead, 4th June 1712). They had issue :—
    1. Robert, baptised 31st December 1741. In early life he went to America, where for some years he settled in Norfolk, Virginia, as a merchant; but on the revolt of the Colonies was obliged to leave, and took refuge in Bermuda and New York. At the Peace in 1783 he returned to Britain, and afterwards settled in London as a merchant in Gower Street. He acquired Paulerspury Park, Northamptonshire, and several other estates in England. He was noted for his generosity towards his native place, and among other good deeds presented the site and the bell for the present Parish Church. He purchased the farm of Gate-end to be held by his heirs and successors, under the burden of a perpetual annuity of £50, to be bestowed by trustees named, in annuities not exceeding £10 or less than £5 to certain poor but respectable and deserving persons, who had resided three years in the parish and had not received parochial aid. At the request of the community he sat for his portrait, to be hung in the Town Hall. Attached to the back of the portrait was an inscription written on parchment, and of the following tenor :—

"The Portrait of
Robert Shedden, Esquire of Paulerspury Park, in the County of Northampton, and of Gower Street, London. Born at Beith, 28th December 1741.

"He was eldest son of William Shedden, merchant in Beith (by his wife Beatrix Dobbie[1]), who was third son of Robert Shedden of Roughwood, in the parish of Beith.

"The Justices of Peace, Heritors, and Inhabitants of the Town and Parish of Beith, having unanimously resolved, at a meeting held on 8th September 1823, as a testimony of their high respect and regard for the said Robert Shedden, Esq., that he should be requested to sit for his Portrait (the expence of which they would defray by subscription) to be put up in the Town hall of Beith, his native place. This portrait was, in consequence of the above request, presented to them as a free gift by Mr Shedden, and put up in this Hall on Monday the 22nd August 1825. J. Graham, pinxit."

While in Virginia Robert Shedden married, in 1767, Agatha, daughter of John Goodrich, Esq. of Nansemond Plantation, by whom he had George, who succeeded him, and four other sons, who became men of position in London and the south of England.

Mr Shedden died on 29th September 1826.

The armorial bearings of Shedden of Paulerspury Park were matriculated in 1824, and in the Register of the Lyon King of Arms are blazoned thus:— Azure on a chevron between three griffins' heads erased argent as many cross crosslets fitchée gules, on a chief of the second an escallop of the first between two cinquefoils of the third.

[1] The name here is misspelled. The signature of "Robt. Dobie" occurs on several pages of the Minutes of Giffin Baron Court, preserved in *Beith Papers*.

2. Beatrix (misnamed in the Register "Bridget"), born 3rd January 1744, married John Shedden in Crawfield, who afterwards acquired Muirston, and latterly resided at the Cross of Beith. They had issue:—Thomas, William, Agatha, Robert, John, and James, who all died unmarried.

II. JOHN, who, in 1734, obtained the irredeemable right to Roughwood, as beforementioned, married, 16th September 1727, Jean, daughter of Gavin Ralston of that Ilk, by Anna, daughter of William Porterfield of that Ilk. In the marriage register he is designed "of Millburn, merchant in Beith." He had issue:—eight children, of whom only four survived infancy, viz.:—

1. Marion, born 14th November 1733 ("daughter to John Shedden of Millburn"), who married, on . . . January 1762, John Patrick of Waterside and Trearne, and had issue:—Jean, Robert, M.D. (afterwards of Trearne and Hessilhead), John, Elizabeth, and William, W.S. (afterwards of Roughwood).
2. Elizabeth, born 18th November 1736 ("daughter to Mr Shedden of Roughwood"[1]); died in infancy.
3. John, born 25th August 1737; died in infancy.
4. Gavin, born 3rd July 1739; died in infancy.
5. John, born 3rd January 1741, a surgeon in the army, and died at the siege of Havannah in 1763, unmarried.
6. Annabella, born 30th September 1742; was with her brother, William, in Virginia, and during the revolution was made prisoner of war, but escaped under a flag of truce to New York; she rejoined her brother in Bermuda, and died there, unmarried, on 12th October 1780.
7. George, born 11th May 1744; died in infancy.

[1] This and the subsequent births are entered as the children of Mr John Shedden of Roughwood.

8. William Ralston, born 23rd April 1747, of whom below.

John Shedden died on 1st May 1770, and his wife in June following.

III. WILLIAM succeeded to Roughwood on the death of his father. He had a short time previously gone to Virginia as a merchant. During the revolt of the Colonies, being a Royalist, he took refuge in Bermuda, and after the Declaration of Independence was recognised, went to New York in 1783, where he remained to retrieve his affairs. While there, he contracted two irregular marriages:—First, in 1785, with Miss Rachel Kennedy, by whom he had a daughter, Annabella; and second, in 1790, with Ann, daughter of Mr David Wilson, formerly in the 27th Regiment of Foot, by whom he had a daughter, Jean Ralston, born 1st March 1792, and a son, William Patrick Ralston, born 8th March 1794. The latter marriage was solemnised according to the rites of the Protestant Episcopal Church in New York on 7th November 1798, and he died on the 13th of the same month and year.

SHEDDEN OF MORISHILL.

I. ROBERT, second son of John Shedden of Marsheland (No. II.), born 5th October 1709; went to Virginia as a merchant, where he remained for many years. On his return to Scotland he bought the 20/- land of old extent of Morishill from William Adam, to whose ancestors it had belonged for several generations. In the Disposition, dated 5th March 1748, Robert Shedden is designed "merchant, residing in Marsheland." In 1755 he purchased from Neil Snodgrass certain parts and portions of the four 12/- lands of Townhead of Braidstane, called the Longcroft, Hillhead, &c., the Disposition being dated 23rd May of that year. He also purchased from his brother, John Shedden, younger of Marsheland, certain other parts and portions of Townhead of Braidstane called

the Shortback of the hill, Hillhead, &c. The Disposition is dated 26th November 1757.

Robert Shedden married, on 6th February 1752, Margaret, eldest daughter of Mr William Simson of Willowyard by his second marriage with Elizabeth, daughter of William Moore, younger of Bruntwood, in the parish of Galston. By her he had issue :—

1. John, born 27th June 1753, of whom afterwards.
2. Elizabeth, born . . . . . ; married William Reid, sculptor in London, of which marriage there was no issue.
3. William, born 10th June 1755, who died young.
4. Margaret, born 7th July 1757; married Charles Watson of London, and had a son, William. Mrs Watson died at Crummock on 23rd April 1841.
5. Janet, born 6th April 1759; married James Scrimgeour of London, eldest son of James Scrimgeour, of Foxhall, West-Lothian, and had issue :—
    1. James, who died s.p. from wounds received at Fuente Guinaldo in Portugal, while leading, as acting adjutant, the successful charge of a small band of the 11th Light Dragoons.
    2. Robert Shedden, of Totteridge, Herts, who married Margaret, eldest daughter of Professor Wilson (see below), and had issue :—
        1. Charles James, who married Lucy Clarendon Mackintosh ; died without issue.
        2. Margaret Elizabeth, married to T. J. D. Mackintosh ; issue :—a daughter, Margaret Isabella.
        3. Janet Shedden, died unmarried.
    3. William Wilson, who married Maria Frances Davis, and has issue :—
        1. Frances Maria, married to Dr Forshall ; issue three children.

2. Elizabeth Gertrude, married to Charles Scot; issue, eight children.
3. Margaret, married Oliver Lodge, barrister, and has issue, three sons and two daughters.
4. Mary Constance, married to the Rev. W. J. Law; issue, four children.
5. William, who died at the age of twenty-six, unmarried.
6. Edith Florence, unmarried.
7. Ronald Cameron, vicar of Exton, Rutlandshire, married May Barrow; issue, a son and daughter.

4. John Shedden, married Isabella Mackinlay; issue, four sons and one daughter.
5. Margaret, died unmarried.
6. Dorothea, died unmarried.
7. Jessie Janet Shedden, who married her cousin, James Arthur Wilson, M.D., chief physician to St George's Hospital, London, and had issue, three sons and two daughters.

Robert Shedden of Morishill died 7th August 1759, and his relict married James Wilson, parish schoolmaster of Beith, afterwards of London. Their eldest son, James, born 9th February 1766, became an eminent surgeon; when, in 1800, by a new charter, the Corporation of Surgeons was created the Royal College of Surgeons of London, he was, on 10th April of that year, the first Professor of Anatomy appointed to the College. He also conducted Lectures in the Theatre of Anatomy in Windmill Street. Besides other works some of his Lectures were published in 1821, and his portrait by Drummond hangs in the office of the secretary to the College.

Professor Wilson died in the end of 1821, leaving, by his wife

Patty (daughter of Mr John Clarke of London, and sister of Sir Charles Mansfield Clarke, Bart., M.D.), a son, James Arthur, above-mentioned; and three daughters — Margaret, married to Robert Scrimgeour, as beforementioned; Martha, married to Alexander Shedden of Morishill (his second wife); and Sophia Maria, who died unmarried in 1889.

Mrs Wilson, widow of Robert Shedden, died in November 1792.

II. JOHN is retoured eldest son and heir to his father in the lands of Morishill, and the two portions of Townhead of Braidstane, on 18th April 1760. In the Charter of Resignation of the lands of Morishill by Alexander, Earl of Eglintoun, dated 5th September 1768, the excambion entered into between the Earl and Robert Shedden, whereby the lands called Daffin's-park were exchanged for Pedderland-meadow is confirmed in favour of John Shedden. He also had a Charter of Confirmation and Precept of Clare Constat, dated 21st October 1793, by John Shaw Stewart of Greenock in his favour, as heir of his father, Robert, in the two different portions of Townhead of Braidstane. On 13th August 1803 he acquired from Hugh, Earl of Eglintoun, the right to the tiends of Morishill and Pedderland-meadow, and also to the tiends affecting his lands of Townhead of Braidstane.

In early life John Shedden went as supercargo of a ship to the West Indies, and remained there and in America in a mercantile capacity for several years. On his return home he resided at Morishill, and improved his properties. During the Volunteer movement in the beginning of the century, he was appointed captain in the 3rd battalion of the Ayrshire Volunteer Infantry, Mr Robert Faulds, manufacturer in Beith, being his lieutenant. On 29th June 1804, Captain John Shedden was admitted a Burgess and Guild brother of the Royal Burgh of Irvine, Archibald, Lord Montgomerie, being then Provost; and on . . . he was placed on the Commission of the Peace. On 18th July 1787 he married his cousin, of half-blood,

Barbara, eldest daughter of Bailie John Wilson of Kilmarnock, by his second marriage with Janet, daughter of Mr William Simson of Willowyard by his first wife Barbara, eldest daughter of William Barclay of Warrix. By her he had issue :—

1. Janet, born 28th March 1788 ; married, 10th August 1807, James Adam, W.S., and factor on the Drummond estates in Perthshire. Mr Adam gave up the factorship, and, on his own account, entered into extensive speculations and improvements in land in his native parish of Lochwinnoch, which financially proved disastrous. He afterwards for a time became factor in Lewis for Mackenzie of Seaforth, but ultimately resided and practised as W.S. in Edinburgh. A man of considerable originality, he invented the screw-propeller, and, along with his son James, experimented successfully on a fishing boat at Leith. In 1832, the result was laid before the Admiralty as being an invention eminently adapted for moving ships of war, but it was not approved of. Unfortunately Mr Adam took out no patent for his invention, which was afterwards applied for by, and granted to, Francis Potter Smith, of Hendon, in 1836. The correspondence between Mr Adam and the Board of Admiralty was printed in pamphlet form by Ballantyne & Hughes, Edinburgh, *circa* 1837.

   Mr and Mrs Adam had surviving issue :—

   1. Matilda, born 30th August 1812 ; died unmarried.
   2. James, civil engineer, married Margaret, daughter of . . . French of Edinburgh ; emigrated to New Zealand in 1840, and was drowned through the capsizing of the ship's boat during a squall in Manukau Bay on 23rd November 1841, leaving, besides his widow, one child, both of whom afterwards died in Sydney, N.S.W.

3. Barbara, and 4, Janet, twins, who died unmarried.
5. Margaret, now residing in Edinburgh.
6. Elizabeth, who accompanied her younger brother to New Zealand, married Rowan Ronald of Sydney; issue, a daughter, but both the mother and child died there soon after.
7. John Shedden, emigrated to New Zealand, and from thence went to Sydney, where he was for many years head draughtsman in the Government Survey Department. He married Luisa-Ann, eldest daughter of James Dalgarno of Sydney, and has issue:—
    1. Luisa Janet Elizabeth, who married, on 2nd November 1881, the very Revd. T. R. Curwen Campbell, Archdeacon of Bathurst, N.S.W.; issue:—a son, Robert Curwen, born 12th November 1895.
    2. Janet Blanche.
    3. Margaret Elsé, who married, on 19th February 1891, Charles Ernest Young of Fairymead, sugar planter, Bundaberg, Queensland, and has issue, a son, Henry Shedden Baring, born 15th April 1894.
    4. John Shedden, now architect in Sydney.
8. Mary, who died young.

Mr Adam died in Edinburgh on 3rd December 1849, and Mrs Adam in 1863.

2. Robert, born 19th November 1789, sailed for India as a cadet in May 1808, in the ship *Traverse*, which was wrecked in the Bay of Bengal, when he escaped with nothing but the clothes on his back. On 20th March 1814 he was appointed lieutenant in the 8th, and afterwards received his commission as captain in the 12th Madras Native Infantry. He

JANET SHEDDEN (MRS. ADAM).

died suddenly, and unmarried, at Vizianagram on 25th July 1828, a general favourite, and much regretted by his brother officers.

3. Alexander, born 29th April 1791, of whom afterwards.
4. Margaret, born 12th November 1792; married, 18th December 1815, James Dobie, writer in Beith, afterwards of Crummock, and had issue:—
    1. James, born 27th June 1817, educated in the Universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh. He became a Member of the Speculative Society, and at its meeting on 5th March 1839, read an Essay on the Druids, which received great praise. He passed W.S. on 16th July, and died at Crummock on 16th December 1840.
    2. John Shedden, born on St Valentine's Day, 1819, of whom afterwards.
    3. Barbara Wilson, born 26th April 1820; died at Crummock 14th September 1845.
    4. Janet Wilson, born 14th September 1821; died at Crummock 24th November 1842.
    5. William Wilson, born 4th February 1823; subject to an asthmatic weakness of the chest he went to Antigua in March 1841, returning in November 1842 with his health much improved. His father's wish being that he should follow out his profession and business, he attended the law classes in Edinburgh University, and passed Notary Public in 1851. While attending the Lectures on the Law of Scotland by Professor J. S. More in 1848-49, he gave in an "Essay on the Scots Law of Marriage," which was doqueted by the Professor as,—"A remarkably excellent Essay, containing many good suggestions, and embracing

much valuable information, particularly as to some marriage customs in Scotland which are now obsolete or little known." His health again failing, in September 1852 he sailed in the ship *Typhoon* for Victoria, when, after being dismasted in the Bay of Biscay and refitting at Lisbon, the ship and passengers arrived safely in Hobson's Bay on 6th March 1853. Finding no suitable opening in the colony, he left in 1855, and in 1858 became, for several years, a merchant in Genoa. He returned to England in a very weak state to visit his mother, then residing in Exeter, where he died on 14th December 1864, and was interred in the general cemetery of that city. After his return from Australia his little volume of *Recollections of a Visit to Port Philip, Australia, in 1852-55*, was published by Thomas Murray & Son, Glasgow, 1856.

6. Jane Elizabeth, born 1st October 1824: Has become a great traveller, first, in company with her widowed mother, and after her death, with other lady friends. She has visited the greater part of Western Europe, Egypt, and the Holy Land; and is now having a tour through India.
7. Robert Shedden, born 3rd May 1828. On 1st June 1842, accompanied by the gardener, Robert Anderson, he went to the fair of Brinnan's-day, at Kilbirnie Kirk. In going there, the ford of the Garnock was nearly dry, but it rained heavily during the day. In the afternoon, in order to get quicker home, the gardener borrowed a horse from his brother George, horse dealer, and took Robert up behind him. The river had risen considerably. After entering the water the

W. WILSON DOBIE.

JANE ELIZABETH DOBIE.

horse stumbled, and on being too severely checked, reared, when both riders fell off and were instantly carried down by the strong current. Though several saw the occurrence, no one was able to render assistance. Poor Robin's last appeal—"Oh, what shall I do!"—was of no avail.

The sad event caused great excitement in Beith and the neighbourhood, and many persons turned out to search for the bodies in the "remorseless" river. They were not found till next day, the gardener's being first discovered about half a mile below the ford, and Robert's not till the afternoon, in a pool nearly opposite Kersland House. What a sad scene it was when the cold, wet, lifeless body was brought to the home which two short days previously he had left in such glee to go to the Fair.

Much sympathy was shown for the bereaved parents and family from near and far. The funeral, which was largely attended, took place on the 8th, when poor Robert, the youngest, was laid beside his eldest brother in the old kirkyard.

The accident had the effect of causing a stone bridge to be built at the ford, which was opened on Brinnan's-day, 1843.

Those who died were all unmarried.

For particulars regarding Mr Dobie, see *Memoir of William Wilson* and Prefatory Notice of the Author. He died suddenly at Crummock on 29th June 1853, aged 64 years and 11 months. Of Mrs Dobie see afterwards.

5. Elizabeth, born 23rd June 1794; married, in June 1819, William Barr, writer in Paisley, afterwards appointed clerk to the Commissioners of Supply for Renfrewshire. On

the death of his father he succeeded to the Superiority of Drums, in the parish of Erskine, holding of the Crown Prince of Scotland. He purchased the lands on which stood the old manor place of Ferguslie, and built the house where he and his wife afterwards resided. Mossvale and other lands adjoining were added to the property, which latterly amounted to 173 acres Scots. The estate, on Mr Barr's death on 10th June 1853, passed by mutual Disposition and Settlement to Mrs Barr, who died at Ferguslie Place on 29th January 1869. Of this marriage there was no issue.

6. John, born in April 1796; died in 1797.

Mrs Shedden died at Morishill on 23rd February 1818, and Mr Shedden on 3rd January 1833, when he was succeeded by his second son:—

III. ALEXANDER, named after Alexander Nisbet, N.P., town clerk, and writer in Irvine, his great grand-uncle by marriage with Anne, daughter of William Moore of Bruntwood. In 1808 he was apprenticed to his relative, Professor James Wilson, before-mentioned, with whom he remained for five years, and acquired great proficiency in anatomy. He was admitted a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons on 19th November 1813. Having passed his examinations for the Hon. East India Company's service, he went to India in January 1814, and, through the influence of Professor Wilson, was appointed assistant-surgeon to the 7th Madras Light Cavalry, with which regiment he was in active service during the Mahratta campaign of 1817-18. Being invalided, he resided for some years in the Neilgherries. Having a natural taste for drawing and painting he made numerous sketches, and also exercised his talent in painting the scenery required for the regimental amateur theatricals. Under proper tuition in his younger days he might have become an artist of some note. On 17th June 1826

ELIZABETH SHEDDEN (MRS. BARR).

he was appointed surgeon to the 17th Regiment of Madras Native Infantry, which was ordered to Rangoon. In 1828 he was appointed surgeon to the King's Army in the East Indies. After serving nearly eighteen years, he was permitted to retire on 1st November 1831, and returned to Scotland in May 1832.

After his father's death he began by making improvements on the old house and offices, and erected gates and gatehouse at the entrance to the avenue. The garden in front of the house was transformed into a shrubbery of laurels, rhododendrons, and other evergreens, and flower plots. The high well-trimmed beech hedge on the north side of the avenue, his father's great pride, having become so tall as to be unmanageable, was converted into a row of detached trees, which still remain. He then commenced laying off new and extensive policy grounds, which eventually occupied about fourteen acres. In 1838 a site for the new mansion house was chosen on the top of the brae, commanding an extensive view all round towards the west and north. The building was finished and occupied in 1842. A two-storeyed octagonal tower detached from the house to the north was erected about the same time, and a walled-in garden to the south. At the foot of the hill what had previously been a marsh or bog, supplied with water from a spring called "Tam's well," was converted into an ornamental pond or small lake, with three islands. The grounds were planted with forest trees and laid off in lawns and walks, ornamented with rhododendrons and various evergreens, all which he carried out with great taste and judgment. He became an enthusiastic curler, and, not content with the ice on the pond, he had an asphalt rink made; and in order to carry on the game during summer, invented, as a substitute for the curling stone, a perfectly round ball, about 10 inches in diameter and 23 lbs. in weight, of lignum vitæ or other hard heavy wood, sheathed with copper, and nicely balanced while being floated in quicksilver. The handle, which had to be drawn out

by the aid of a small hook, was acted on by a spiral spring, and immediately on being let go from the hand returned into its socket as part of the sphere. On 17th February 1846 the curlers of Beith entertained Mr Shedden to a dinner, at which he was presented with a silver claret jug, the lid being surmounted by the figure of a curler in the act of playing a curling bowl. The jug bore the following inscription :—"Presented to Alexander Shedden, Esq^r. of Morishill, by a number of his friends, as a mark of their esteem for his uniform kindness in inviting them to join in the various games which he has so liberally encouraged within his grounds; and particularly for the ingenuity displayed by him in the Game of Bowls, which he has invented as a substitute for Curling. Beith, January 1846." A report of the dinner and presentation was published by John Smith & Son, Beith.

On the death of Mr Wilson of Crummock, Alexander Shedden, by special destination, succeeded to the property of Willowyard, in which he was infeft on 31st October 1842. He had previously sold his two portions of Townhead of Braidstane to Dr Robert Patrick of Trearne, in May 1834; and, in 1839, a strip of the lands of Willowyard extending to nearly five and a half acres was taken up by the Glasgow, Paisley, Kilmarnock, and Ayr Railway Co., now the Glasgow and South-Western, the Disposition being dated 4th November 1842.

Alexander Shedden married, on 15th June 1841, Jessie Glasgow, eldest daughter of the late James Henderson, merchant in Greenock, by Janet, daughter of Dr James Caldwell of Johnshill, Lochwinnoch. By this marriage he had an only child, Jessie Caldwell, born 1st June 1842, of whom afterwards. Mrs Shedden died 15th February 1850. He married, secondly, on 22nd April 1851, Martha, second daughter of Professor James Wilson and Patty Clarke, of which marriage there was no issue. Mr Shedden died on 14th January 1867, and his wife on 21st September following.

ALEXR SHEDDEN OF MORISHILL

IV. JESSIE CALDWELL succeeded to Morishill and Willowyard, her Special and General Service being expede at Ayr on the 19th, and recorded on the 20th March 1869. On the death of her aunt, Mrs Barr, in January 1869, she succeeded to Ferguslie and her other properties, including the Superiority of Drums. From a combined attack of measles and diphtheria she died at Morishill on 20th October 1869, at the early age of twenty-seven. Having made no will or settlement, her various properties fell to be divided between John Shedden Adam, as representing his mother Janet, eldest daughter, and Mrs Margaret Shedden or Dobie, second and only surviving daughter of John Shedden of Morishill.

V. MARGARET SHEDDEN-DOBIE, along with John Shedden Adam, had a Writ of Clare Constat by Archibald William, fourteenth Earl of Eglinton, dated 8th May 1871. An arrangement having been come to whereby Mrs Shedden-Dobie acquired from John Shedden Adam his share of the properties of Morishill and Willowyard, thus becoming sole proprietor, her title was completed by a joint Disposition by herself and Somerville Greig, W.S., as commissioner for John Shedden Adam to herself, dated 17th May and 9th June 1871. Thereafter she reassumed her patronymic, combining Shedden with Dobie. The Ferguslie properties were sold on 13th February 1872 to Thomas Coats, thread manufacturer, Paisley, the price being £20,000.

Mrs Dobie had been long noted for her generosity and kindness in visiting the poor and the afflicted. After her husband's death the establishment at Crummock was given up, the library sold, and the place let. Accompanied by her only surviving daughter, she resided for a time in the island of Jersey; and after the property was sold, in 1857, visited various parts of the Continent. On the opening of the succession to Morishill she took up her abode there, receiving a most hearty and respectful welcome from all who had previously known her. She was enabled to resume her favourite

occupation in her garden and among her flowers. After a long life, during which she had suffered many and great bereavements, borne with Christian fortitude and resignation, she died on 8th January 1883, at the age of ninety years and fifty-seven days.

VI. JOHN SHEDDEN-DOBIE succeeded his mother, assuming the combined form of the name.

His father intending him for the legal profession, he went to Edinburgh, and attended the law classes in the University there, having matriculated in the session of 1836-7. Preferring a more active life, in the winter of 1838-9 he forsook his *Alma Mater*, and attended a course of lectures on the Veterinary Art by Professor Dick. In August 1839 he was present at the ever memorable Eglinton Tournament, and sailed from Leith, on 27th September following, for Port Phillip, as the colony of Victoria was then called. Touching at the Cape de Verd Islands and at Adelaide, he arrived in Hobson's Bay on the 14th March 1840. Melbourne he found to be "a nice little town," and soon after became a squatter and sheep farmer, along with his friend John Hunter Kerr, on the river Yarra. The financial affairs of the colony having become very unsatisfactory, he returned home, *via* Cape Horn, in 1844. In 1850 he joined a party of East Lothian farmers' sons, and sailed from Leith to the island of Gottland, which was said to offer a fine opening for farmers,—but they all returned. Tired of idleness, in 1851 he went to California, *via* New York and the Isthmus of Panama; joined his old friend Tom Macredie, and had a season at the Diggings, chiefly on the American river. When the winter floods set in they retired on San Francisco, and meeting with some others on the lookout for a venture, one of whom had been master of a merchant vessel, it was agreed to go in for a trading voyage to the Hawaiian Islands. A square-rigged schooner of about 130 tons was purchased, and the voyage to Honolulu made. After visiting several of the islands, they returned to San Francisco with a very heterogeneous assort-

MARGARET SHEDDEN (MRS. DOBIE).

ment of live stock and other produce. Having received very good news from their friends in Australia, they sold out, and took passages in a Hobartown trader for Sydney. Calling for a few days at Apia, in the beautiful island of Upolu, one of the Samóan group, they had an opportunity of seeing that handsome race of people, in their green leaf kilts or petticoats, and Eden-like surroundings. What a pity that the tendency of civilisation should be to spoil so beautiful a picture of primitive life!

From Sydney they proceeded by steamer to Victoria, and arrived in Melbourne, now a large and bustling City, on 28th August 1852. After some time spent in visiting old friends, and inspecting the various diggings, his friend Tom went in for quartz crushing at St Arnaud, while he took to gold buying at Korong. Eventually he entered into a partnership arrangement with his cousin William Wright, undertaking to convert one of his sheep stations, called Langi-geren, into a cattle run. An entirely new homestead had been completed, and pronounced to be one of the most prettily situated and best planned stations in the district, when, in little more than two years, a new gold field was discovered on the run, causing a rush of thirty thousand diggers. The township of Ararat followed, with a total population of forty or fifty thousand, and the land all around was surveyed for selection. The cattle, which could no longer be kept on the run, were, when found, obliged to be sold, for the most part, as store cattle, and the partnership arrangement collapsed. Without consulting him, the Government surveyor, in laying off the main line of road to Ballarat, named the stone bridge built over the river Hopkins, close to the cattle yards, "Dobie's Bridge," which name it retains unto this day,—but there is no revenue derived from it. On 14th June 1862 he left the colony in disgust, and sailed, *via* Mauritius, for Natal in South Africa. While there, he was one of a party that made three very pleasant and successful yearly waggon treks through Kaffirland to

the Eastern Province for sheep, returning with them to Natal. Diseases peculiar to the country, and for which no cure is known, made the increase of sheep so unsatisfactory that he resolved to try South America. Proceeding by mail steamer to Cape Town, he sailed on 28th July 1866, in the brig *Silver Cloud*, for St Helena and Rio de Janeiro, and from thence by steamer to Monte Video, where he arrived on 3rd October, after being aground on the notorious "English Bank" for three quarters of an hour. In the city some of the gentlemen to whom he had letters of introduction kindly invited him to visit their estancias, and gain knowledge and experience of the ways and language of the country. He found it a grand pastoral country, with a people who did not like work except what could be done on horseback, and subject to the evils attendant on a very unstable Government and an equally weak Executive.

He had not seen his way to make an investment, but had been offered the management of an estancia, when, on 26th January he received letters from his mother, then in San Remo, telling him of the death of Miss Shedden, and of her prospective accession to Morishill, earnestly beseeching him to return to her,—"*Come!* and be the John Shedden of Morishill in room of your grandfather for whom you were named." He gladly prepared to obey the call, and after a short run across to see Buenos Ayres, and to realise the Pampas, he left Monte Video on 17th February in *R.M.S. Douro*. On his arrival in London on 19th March, finding his mother and sister were still in the Riviera, he joined them at Mentone on the evening of the 1st of April, after a separation of a little over nineteen years. They soon after started on their homeward journey, *viâ* Paris and London, arriving at Morishill on 6th June 1870.

In 1874 he edited his father's unpublished MSS. on *Cuninghame Topographised by Timothy Pont;* and in 1877 was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. He was one of the

JOHN SHEDDEN-DOBIE.

original members of the Ayr and Galloway Archæological Association, was made a member of Council, Honorary Secretary for Cuninghame, and has contributed to some of its volumes of Collections. He became a member in 1884-5, and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society in 1888. Of his many note-books of travel, a few have been re-written and bound in three volumes. These consist of:—"A Trip to the Island of Gottland;"—"Journals of South Africa;"—"Hawai-i;" and "Athwart the Pacific"—(this latter in royal 4to); and all are interspersed with numerous sketches taken *en passant*.

The work of improvement at Morishill has not been neglected. Among the changes made may be noticed:—A new line of road to the stables, and the removal of the low wall and line of shrubs on the north side of the avenue, both sides being now open lawn: The old house which had existed prior to the acquisition of Robert Shedden, and had by him been enlarged and repaired, bears on the chimney of the south gable a panel containing the date 1752, which is that of his marriage with Margaret Simson. It underwent further alterations in the time of John Shedden, and also of Alexander; latterly it had been set apart as the coachman's quarters, but as it encroached too much on the amenity of the avenue, and had become seriously affected with dry rot, it was resolved to remove it. In anticipation, and to supply the accommodation thus to be sacrificed, a storey was built over the coach-house and washing-house, consisting of three apartments and scullery. On its front gable a stone bears within an oblong panel the initials J.S.-D. in monogram and the date 1887, cut in relief. In the following year the old building was unroofed, and the north gable and part of the adjoining walls were taken down, the remainder being kept up as an ivy-clad ruin, including the little window of the upper room in the south gable, where his mother first saw the light.

Like his worthy old forbear of Bogston, he has induced crows to

form a rookery on the trees on the lower side of the avenue, which was effected by tying small bundles of twigs in the forks of the upper branches.

It may also be mentioned that the *facsimile* of the principal pinnacle of the monument in Skelmorlie aisle at Largs, cut by the Beith sculptor Logan from the drawings made by Mr William Dobie, has been transferred from Grangevale to a central position on the top of the wall connecting Morishill house with the laundry. It was dedicated to his favourite sister, and around its base is cut:—"Designed for Elizabeth by W. Dobie, 24th May 1845." As it was intended to occupy a niche in one of the gable walls at Grangevale, the fourth side of the pinnacle was left plain.

(MORISHILL:—The oldest form of this name met with occurs in the Retours of the early part of the seventeenth century. At that period Robert Peibles was owner of Maynshill, Moreisheills, and Pedderland. On 10th February 1637, he granted a charter of his 20s. land of old extent of "Morishill" to John Stewart, in Woodside, and Janet Stewart, his spouse, who, in 1660, resigned the lands in favour of Henry Adam, son of John Adam, portioner of Bowfield, in the parish of Lochwinnoch, and his spouse, Margaret, daughter of the above John and Janet Stewart. In subsequent transfers the name is sometimes written "Moorishill," "Moricehill," and "Morrishill."

Moreishiells was probably so named from the large shiellings or huts erected on the lands.)

APPENDIX IV.

WILSON OF BOURTREES.

I. JOHN WILSON of Rowantree-hill in the parish of Kilmalcolm, before 1690. His son—

II. JOHN of Rowantreehill, married, in 1690, Janet, daughter of Umphra Barbour, portioner of Risk in the parish of Lochwinnoch, who had a tocher of 400 merks. He bought Mid-Barnaich, in that parish, about 1698, and died about 1745. He had issue :—three sons and two daughters. The eldest son—

III. UMPHRAY succeeded to Mid-Barnaich, which he sold in 1745, and in the same year or the year following bought Nether-houses and Bourtrees, in the same parish. He married, on 4th February 1727, Agnes, daughter of William Fulton of Threepwood, in the parish of Beith, and had issue :—four sons and four daughters. To his eldest son, John, born in 1728, he granted his lands of Nether-houses. His second son—

IV. WILLIAM "of Bourtrees." He was born at Mid-Barnaich in 1734, and married, in 1758, Janet, eldest surviving daughter of Robert Cochran of Barcosh in the parish of Dalry. His father intended that he should heir Bourtrees, but William's affairs having become hopelessly embarrassed, his father sold the property in 1780, part of the price being assigned to trustees for the benefit of Janet Cochran and her children. They latterly resided at Calderhaugh near Lochwinnoch, where he died in 1808, and his widow followed in 1825. They had issue :—

1. John, born 1758, who died in Jamaica in 1799, unmarried.
2. Robert, of whom afterwards.

3. Janet, of whom afterwards.
4. Agnes, born 1763, who married William Ewing, feuar, and had issue.
5. Margaret, born 1765, who married William Wright of Calderpark, and had issue:—James and John, cotton brokers in Glasgow, and four other sons and seven daughters.
6. Umphra, born 1767, who married Margaret Sinclair, and had issue:—James, merchant in Glasgow, besides three other sons and four daughters.
7. Mary, born 1769, who married James Connell, and had issue:—four sons and one daughter.
8. William, born 1772; died in Jamaica, unmarried.
9. James, born 1775; died in Jamaica, unmarried.
10. Alexander, born 1777, who married Mary, eldest daughter of William Latta of Boydston, and bought the farm of Over-Trees in 1827. He had issue:—three sons, of whom Alexander, the second son, is the only survivor, and now in possession: He married Margaret, youngest daughter of Robert Cochran of Oldhall, Dunlop—issue, nine children.
11. Thomas, born December 1780, wine merchant in Paisley, married Margaret, daughter of William Tait, cloth merchant there, and had issue:—two daughters and then seven sons, *seriatim*, of whom Robert of Hoylake, Cheshire, is sole survivor.

The children of William Wilson were all born at Bourtrees.

Robert Wilson, second son of the above William Wilson of Bourtrees, was born at Bourtrees on 13th March 1760. He studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh in 1777 and 1778; went to India, and was appointed assistant surgeon in the Company's service in 1783, surgeon in 1802, and shortly afterwards, on account of his talents and eminent services, was elevated by the last Emperor of Hindostan, Shah Aulum, to the rank and dignity of a Khaun of the

MRS. WILSON OF BOURTREES.

Mogul Empire. He was appointed surgeon to the Residency at the Court of Lucknow in 1804, and promoted to the rank of Superintendent-surgeon in the Company's service in 1815, but at the special application of the Nawab was permitted to continue his residence at Lucknow till the year 1817, when he returned home. He was subsequently known as Dr Robert Wilson of Chapel Place, Cavendish Square, London, where he died unmarried on 12th April 1822, and was buried at St Marylebone, in the county of Middlesex.

By his will he left the greater part of his fortune, which was considerable, to his nephew, Wilson Dobie, youngest son of his eldest sister Janet's second marriage, on condition that he should assume the name and arms of Wilson in addition to those of Dobie,—of whom afterwards.

Janet, the eldest daughter of William Wilson, born 9th January 1762; married, first in 1778, John Fulton of Barcosh, and also of Auchlodmont in the abbey parish of Paisley, by whom she had two sons and a daughter. Her eldest son, John, born 8th September 1779, succeeded to those properties on the death of his father in November 1784, and on the death of his uncle, Robert Fulton of Grangehill in 1785, unmarried, he also succeeded to that property. For some further notice of him see *Memoir*, page 115. He married Catharine, daughter of the Revd. David MacLellan, minister of Beith, and died in 1836, leaving a son, John, who succeeded to his mother's property of Nettlehirst, and a daughter, Isabella, who married the Revd. Robert Crawfurd, minister of Irongray, Dumfriesshire.

Janet Wilson married second, in 1787, James Dobie, merchant and bank agent in Beith. He acquired a small property, subsequently named Grangevale, part of the estate of Grangehill, on which, in 1801, he built the house where they afterwards resided. Mr Dobie died on 10th February 1819, and his widow on 19th January 1850. Of this marriage there was issue:—

1. James, born 29th July 1788, writer and bank agent in Beith,

who married, in 1815, Margaret, second daughter of John Shedden of Morishill. See *Memoir*, Prefatory Notice, and Appendix III.

2. William, born 11th July 1790, latterly resided at Grangevale. Owing to the liberality of his brother, Wilson, he was enabled to devote his time and talents with pen and pencil to architectural, heraldic, and antiquarian pursuits. His first appearance before the public as an author was in the *Statistical Account of 1842*, to which he contributed the Parish of Kilbirnie. In this he was assisted in the geological section by Mr Andrew Craig of Glasgow; in that on ornithology by Mr John Jamieson, Kilbirnie, and in agriculture by Mr Robert Logan of Baillieston. He visited all the parish churches and burying-grounds of Ayrshire and took notes with the intention of enlarging them for publication. An experimental volume, limited to fifty copies, was printed by Robert Malcolm, Glasgow, 1847. It contained the churches of Ardrossan and Largs only; but the publication was not continued. These were reprinted, by permission, in the *Scottish Journal of Topography Antiquities, &c.*: Stevenson & Menzies, Edinburgh, 1847-48; and to them he added, "The Parish Church and Churchyard of Kilbirnie," and "The Parish Church and Burying-ground of Dalry." "The Church of Kilbirnie" was afterwards reprinted in pamphlet form by John Smith & Son, Beith, 1850. His descriptions of the other parish churches of Ayrshire remained unpublished at his death, the MSS. being in a more or less unfinished condition. Those relating to North Ayrshire have since appeared in his brother James Dobie's edition of Pont's *Cuninghame*.

He took great interest in the Wallace Monument on its being erected, in 1855, at Barnweill, the property of General

MRS. DOBIE OF GRANGEVALE.

Neill, by William Patrick of Roughwood, W.S.; and to the *Life of Sir William Wallace*, published by Thomas Murray & Son, Glasgow, 1858, he contributed the preliminary description of the monument.

He was also a votary of the Muses; very few specimens of his verses have, however, been preserved. "Stanzas written on Glengarnock Castle, Ayrshire, Inscribed to Dr A. Crawfurd, Lochwinnoch," with historical notes, appeared in the *Scottish Journal*, Vol. ii. Some of his verses will also be found in the *Book of Scottish Song:* Blackie & Son, Glasgow, 1845, and in the *Ayrshire Wreath* for 1843, 1844, and 1855: M'Kie, Kilmarnock.

Mr William Dobie wrote a particularly neat and distinct hand, and was a good and careful draughtsman. When not using colour, both his penmanship and drawings were done with the crow quill and China ink. Of his highly finished MSS., with illustrations, he left three volumes, which are perfect gems in regard to workmanship. The first in point of date is entitled "Fragments of Perambulations in Kintyre in the Summer of 1833." It contains as frontispiece a beautifully drawn map of the Peninsula, the title-page being in old Celtic characters; sketches of various places visited, including Saddel and Skipness, are given in crow-quill outline; and the monuments and sculptured stones met with during his tour are represented in coloured drawings. The second volume is devoted to the favourite subject of "Glengarnock Castle," illustrated by views and vignettes in water-colour, and a ground plan of the building, so far as could be traced from the ruins. The third consists of his fair copy of "The Church of Kilbirnie," having for its frontispiece the engraving from his drawing of the exterior of the edifice, which had appeared as an illustration in the

Examination of the Claim of John Lindsay Crawfurd by his brother, James Dobie. It also contained coloured emblazonments of the armorial bearings of the first Viscount Garnock, and his ancestry on both sides, as they appear on the front of the "Lord's Laft," and elsewhere in the interior of the church; as well as drawings in sepia of those on the external walls, and on the mausoleum of Captain Crawfurd of Jordanhill. Drawings of some of the older tombstones in the burying-ground are also given in sepia.

Besides the family memorials in the old kirkyard of Beith, he has left several lasting examples, in freestone, of his talent as a designer. Of these it will be sufficient to notice three:—

1st. The monument at Grangevale erected at the head of the long walk, the favourite promenade of the three brothers in happier times. It is composed of an obelisk on a quadrilateral pedestal and base, the shaft of the obelisk being a monolith 9 feet 7 inches in height, and the total height, including the pedestal and base, 13 feet 1 inch. The pedestal bears the following inscriptions. On its southern or principal face:—"To the lights and shadows, the joys and sorrows of 'Auld Langsyne,' dedicated by William Dobie, the xi of July MDCCCLII." On the north face:—"Look not mournfully into the Past—it comes not again. Wisely improve the Present—it is thine: And go forward to meet the shadowy Future, without fear, and with a manly heart!" On the west face:—

"Time flies; it is his melancholy task
To bring, and bear away delusive hopes,
And re-produce the troubles he destroys.
But, while his blindness thus is occupied,
Discerning Mortal! do thou serve the will
Of Time's eternal Master, and that peace
Which the world wants, shall be for thee confirmed."

WILLIAM DOBIE.

The east face is occupied by a shield, mantled, having his armorial bearings and tinctures carved in relief—viz., on a field ermine, a rose proper, between three cross-crosslets two and one azure; for crest a cross-crosslet of the same surmounted of a thistle slipped proper, and above, a scroll bearing the motto *Non nobis Domine.*

2nd. The monument to Dr Andrew Crawfurd in Lochwinnoch Kirkyard: and,—

3rd. His own monument, of which he superintended the erection in the new cemetery of Beith. It consists of a broken fluted column and quadrilateral pedimented pedestal, resting on a base of two steps. The centres of the pediments and the faces of the pedestal bear respectively:—On the south, his crest carved in relief; and his epitaph cut during his lifetime, with the exception of the line left for recording his death. On the west, his shield; and inscriptions to the memory of his brother, James Dobie, and his nephew, William Wilson Dobie. On the north, a garland of oak leaves; and an inscription to the memory of his sister Jane, wife of Commander William Lyons, R.N. And on the east, a butterfly; and quotations in verse.

William Dobie died at Grangevale, unmarried, on 29th June 1868.

3. Robert, born 1st June 1792, died in Jamaica, unmarried.
4. Jane (or Jean), born 7th September 1794; married, on 18th October 1830, William Lyons, Lieutenant R.N., afterwards Post-Captain, and died at Clifton, 15th February 1867, leaving a daughter, Janet Wilson; and a son, Wilson Dobie Wilson, now of the Board of Trade. Captain Lyons died at Goole on 3rd October 1878.
5. Fulton, born 21st October 1796, died in the Bay of Honduras, unmarried.

6. Elizabeth, born 23rd June 1798; died at Grangevale on 26th January 1846, unmarried. She was noted for her kindness and geniality of character.
7. Wilson, born 30th November 1803; succeeded to the fortune of his uncle, Dr Robert Wilson, in accordance with whose will he assumed, by Royal licence, the surname of Wilson, in addition to Dobie, and obtained grants of arms, dated 15th and 18th December 1822, for Dobie (to be borne by him and the other descendants of his father, the late James Dobie) and for Wilson, the same to be borne quarterly by himself and his issue, in manner following:—First and Fourth, Sable a Wolf saliant or, between his forepaws an Escrol inscribed with Persian characters; in chief a Snake nowed proper between two Etoiles argent, all within a Bordure erminois,—for Wilson:—Second and Third, Ermine, an Esquire's Helmet proper, garnished or, between three Cross crosslets two and one, azure,—for Dobie:—Crests,—for Wilson, a Wolf-sejant or, holding between his forepaws an Escrol as in the Arms, in allusion to the Firman by the Emperor of Delhi granted to Dr Robert Wilson,—and for Dobie, a Cross crosslet azure, surmounted of a Thistle slipped proper.

   Mr Dobie Wilson died very suddenly on 1st June 1838, while on a visit to his mother at Grangevale. The following obituary notice from the pen of his friend the Rev. William Fleming, D.D., Professor of Oriental Languages in the University of Glasgow, formerly minister of Old Kirkpatrick, appeared in the newspapers at the time, and was circulated among his friends:—

   "THE LATE WILSON DOBIE WILSON, ESQUIRE.—There was something so striking and melancholy in the death of this accomplished and amiable gentleman, that it demands more than the ordinary and passing notice bestowed on

WILSON DOBIE WILSON.

such events. Mr Wilson was born at Grangevale, near Beith, on the 30th November 1803. By the death of his maternal uncle, in April 1822, he came to the possession of a very handsome fortune. While prosecuting his studies at the University of Edinburgh he resided in the house of the late Rev. Dr Fleming, minister of Lady Yester's Church. He afterwards travelled through considerable part of the continent of Europe, visiting most of those scenes which have been celebrated for their natural grandeur or beauty, and most of those places which are enriched with the triumphs of ancient and modern art. On his return to his native country, he became a member of the Honourable Faculty of Advocates; but not having any intention of following the legal profession, he retired to Glenarbach, a delightfully romantic residence on the banks of the Clyde in Dunbartonshire. He spent much of his time in the prosecution of literary and philosophical subjects. His knowledge of books was accurate and extensive, and he had collected, with great judgment and taste, one of the best private libraries to be met with. He was intimately acquainted with the literature of France and Italy, as well as with that of England. Mr Wilson had paid considerable attention to the study of Anglo-Saxon, and to the philosophy of languages in general. But his favourite subjects of research were the history and antiquities of his native country. In illustration of these, he had carefully studied the kindred subjects of heraldry and architecture. He had lately been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and he had previously been a member of the Council of the Society of Antiquaries, and also of the Council of the Maitland Club. . . . His sudden and melancholy death took place while he was

on a visit to his mother. Immediately after dressing for dinner he fell down, and instantly expired. His death will be long and deeply felt, not only by his afflicted widow and relatives, but by a wide circle of attached friends. In all the relations of life he acquitted himself with great propriety. A true Christian, he was not only regular in his attention to the external observances of religion, but strict in the discharge of its practical duties. A kind husband, a dutiful son, an affectionate brother, and a faithful friend, his sudden removal from the enjoyment of everything that can render this life desirable is one of those painful lessons which are necessary to teach us to set our affections on things above."

The funeral took place on the 8th, when his remains were laid beside those of his father in the old burying ground. A tribute to his memory, designed by his brother William, was afterwards inserted in the eastern wall of what remains of the old Kirk, over against his burial-place. It consists of a projecting pedestal and obelisk. The ornamented pediment of the pedestal has in its centre a butterfly encircled by a snake, the emblem of eternity, and bears a funeral urn. Near the apex of the obelisk is carved in relief his crest of the Wolf-sejant, and over it on a scroll the motto, "Expecto cuncta superne." The pedestal contains a tablet, on which is cut the following inscription :—

HIC
INTER SUORUM LACHRYMAS
SEPULTUS EST
WILSON DOBIE WILSON.
NATUS XXX. NOV. MDCCCIII.
OBIIT I. JUN. MDCCCXXXVIII.

CARE, VALE! SED NON AETERNUM, CARE, VALETO!

BEATI MORTUI
QUI IN DOMINO MORIUNTUR.

Mr Dobie-Wilson had never appeared before the public as an author, but the *Description of an Ancient Cross at Kilmory in Argyllshire*, an essay which he had read at the meeting of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland on 19th February 1838 (the first of a series of papers which it was his intention to have laid before that society on various topographical antiquities of his country), was, after his death, privately printed at Edinburgh in 1839, with a preliminary notice of the author written by his friend James Patrick Muirhead, Advocate, and having as a frontispiece an engraving of the cross, from the drawing by William Dobie.

He married, on 15th January 1835, Georgina, fourth daughter of Dr John Bird Sumner, Bishop of Chester, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury, by whom he had a son, Robert, born 26th February 1836, M.A. (Oxon.), barrister; and a daughter, Mary, born 11th February 1837, who died at Lambeth Palace on 23rd April 1851.

Mrs Wilson, among her other accomplishments, had a very correct knowledge of music, and composed a number of songs, the words of some of them written by herself, which were published and admired. Nature had endowed her with a voice of uncommon power and sweetness, and the taste and feeling with which she sang our Scottish melodies was a treat to those who had the privilege of hearing her, to be ever afterwards remembered.

Mrs Wilson died in London on 22nd June 1881.

ERRATA.

Page 91. *For* Indian Company, *read* India Company.

,, 199, line 4. *For* William Shedden, *read* William Ralston Shedden

,, 205. Margaret Shedden, *born 11th* November, registered on the 12th.

,, 224, line 7th from foot. *For* Kirkpatrick, *read* Kilpatrick.

INDEX.

A

ADAM of Bowfield and Morishill, 67-9, 195, 199.
Adam, James, W.S., Factor on the Drummond Estates, and marriage, 93; Speculations in land, 103, 105-6; Failure, 111; Factor to Seaforth, in Lewis, 113; Returns to Edinburgh, 127; His family, &c., 203-4.
Adam, John, student, 176.
Alexander, Mrs, Elk River, 47.
Allan, John, artist, Glasgow, 117.
Allan, Miss (or Wilson), Glasgow, 31.
Allison, David and Robert, Glasgow, 182.
American Revolution, 10-41, *passim*.
Apia, and natives of Samóa, 213.
Ararat Diggings and Township, 213.
Auchengown, 170.
Auchentiber, 180.
Auchlodmont, 219.

B

BANNATYNE, JAMES, of Kelly, and daughter Ann, 180.
Barbour, Umphra, of Risk, and daughter Janet (or Wilson), 217.
Barclay of Pierston, 56 (and note).
Barclay, Robert, of Warrix, Provost of Irvine, 56.
Barclay, William, of Warrix, and his daughter Barbara (or Simson), 3, 56, 59, 171, 185, 203.
Barclay, Dr Robert, 57, 59.
Barclay, Jean (or Gemmill), 57, 60.
Barcosh, 219.
Barr of Trearne, and daughter Martha (or Barclay), 57, 171.
Barr, William, of Paisley, &c., and Elizabeth Shedden, 111, 114, 150, 154, 159; *see* also pp. 207, 211.
Barrodger, 1, 110.
Beith, "The Muckle House," 1, 110, 113; First Bank Agency, 99; Society in town and parish, 66, 104; Old Courthouse and new Townhouse, 108-109; Townhall portraits, 116-117 (and note), 188, 196-197; Reform meetings, 127-128; Visitation of cholera, 145.
Beith Parish Church, 196.
Beith Glebe, 191, 195.
Beith Registers, 177, 178, 190.
Bellcraig farm, 126.
Black-Cart, deepening of the, 183.
Blairshouses, 195.
Bogston (or Bogstoun), 3; New mansion built and lands improved, 24; other improvements; Rookery, and old yew tree, 185-186; Sale and decay, 189.
Bogston Writs, 176-178; Early wheelbarrow, 183; the "Bride's scone," 183.
Borland, Dr Robert, Kilmarnock, and Mary Wilson, 3; Go to Jamaica, 44, 45, 55, 70-1; Leave Jamaica, and death of his wife at sea, 78-83; Daughter Euphemia dies, 85; Takes a second wife, 85; His death, 103; Family, 184.
Borland, Robert Montgomery, 74, 85; Marriage, and Mr Wilson's generosity, 112; In difficulties, 118; Separation, and death, 124-125; His family, 187.
Borland, Robert Montgomerie, succeeds to Bogston, 126, 134; Educated in Brussels, and dies at Malmedy, 188-9.
Borland, Charlotte Montgomerie (Mrs Decker), succeeds, and sells Bogston, 189.
Bourtrees, 99, 217.
Boyd, Thomas, of Pitcon, 179.
Braidinhill, 174.
Braidlie, Dalry, 4, 183.

Braidstane (or Broadstone), Townhead of, 67, 199, 202, 210.
Brown, George, of Knockmarloch, 195.
Brown, Marion, Gabroch-hill, 191.
Brownhills, 178.
Bruntwood, *see* Moore of.
Burnside of Marsheland, 191.
Bute, Lord, 14, 17.

C

CAIRNS, Dr, London, 54.
Calderhaugh, Lochwinnoch, 217.
Caldwell, Dr James, Johnshill, and Janet, his daughter, 210.
Caldwell, John, Chelsea, 170.
Caldwell, John, Kilmarnock, and Mary Sempill, 181.
Caldwell, William, Calcutta, 77.
Caldwell House, 186.
California, 212.
Campbell, Alexander, New York and Quebec, 30, 50, 64.
Campbell, Sir Archibald, 64.
Campbell, Hew, of Corshill, 180.
Campbell, Mathew, of Wattirhaugh, 181.
Campbell, Mungo, of Netherplace, and daughter Elizabeth, 175, 180, 182.
Campbell, Very Rev. T. R. Curwen, Bathurst, N.S.W., 204.
Card-playing for the blind, 120-121 ; A Last game, 148.
Chandernagore, 75.
Charleston, 20, 25 ; Siege, 26 ; Evacuation, 40.
Clark, David, of London, 138-139.
Clark (or Clerk), Robert, of Shitterflat, and family, 170, 181.
Clarke, Sir Charles Mansfield, M.D., and sister Patty, 202, 210.
Clarke, John, of London, 202.
Clinton, Sir Henry, 26, 48.
Coats, Thomas, Paisley, 211.
Cochran, Mrs, of Ladyland, 54.
Cochran, Robert, of Barcosh, and daughter Janet, 217.
Cochran, Robert, of Oldhall, and daughter Margaret, 218.
Cochrane, Mr, of Clippens, 115.
Colville, Rev. George, D.D., 151, 154, 194.
Cornwallis, Lord, 84.
Craig, Robert, King Cottage, 174.
Craighouse, *see* Montgomerie of.
Crawfield, 183.
Crawfurd, Dr Andrew, Johnshill, 177, 183, 221, 223.
Crawfurd, John, of Birkheid, 181.
Crawfurd, Rev. Robert, Irongray, 219.
Crokat, Hannah (or Simson), 171.
Crummock, acquired by Mr Wilson, 106 ; House-heating, 107 ; Total cost, including additions and repairs, 161 ; Feus, 163.
Cumingsbraehead, 195.

D

DAFFIN'S-PARK, 202.
Dalgarno, James, Sydney, N.S.W., 204.
Dalgarno, Luisa-Ann (or Adam), 204.
Davidson, Major, 98.
Davidson, Mr, Irvine, 143, 147-148.
Decker, Jean Paul, Cologne, 189.
Dobie, James, sen., agent in Beith for Messrs Fulton & Co., agent for the Paisley Bank, and his marriage, 99 ; Death, 111 ; Family, *see* Appendix IV., p. 219.
Dobie, James, Author of *Memoir;* His personal introduction and early love, 99-100 ; Becomes writer in Beith, 101 ; First interview with Mr Wilson, 102 ; Marriage with Margaret Shedden, 101-107 ; Appointed Bank agent, 145-146 ; He and his wife succeed to Crummock, 153, 159 : His family and death, Appendix III., pp. 205-207 ; and Prefatory Notice of the Author ; *see* also Shedden, Margaret, 211.
Dobie, William, Grangevale, 220-223.
Dobie, Wilson, *see* Wilson Dobie-Wilson.
Dobie, Jane, wife of Captain Lyons, R.N., and family, 148, 223.
Dobie, Elizabeth, 144, 224.
Dobie, Robert, Chamberlain of Giffin, 182.
Dobie, Beatrix (or Shedden), 196-197 (note).
"Dobie's Bridge," 213.
Dreghorn, 183.
Drummond, Miss, of Perth, 93.
Drummond, John and Elizabeth Montgomerie, 5 ; Family, 182.
Drummond, artist, London, 202.
Drums, in the Parish of Erskine, 208, 211.

Duncan, John and Robert, in Willowyard, 172.
Duniere, Miss, Quebec, 31-40.
Dunlop, John, Georgetown, 16-17.
Dunlop, Archibald, in Braidstane, 178.
Dunmore, Governor, 18.
Dunn, William, writer, Beith, 100.
Dunsmure, Gavin and John of Brownhills, 178.

E

EASTERBRAEHEAD, Beith, 195.
East India Company, Renewal of Charter, 84-5; Governor-General's extravagance, 88; Court of Directors, 90-2.
Eglinton, Hugh, 7th Earl, 3, 178; Hugh, 12th Earl, 130-31; Alexander, 9th Earl, 173, 191, 195; Alexander, 10th Earl, 202; Archibald, 11th Earl, 172; Archibald William, 14th Earl, 211.
Eglinton Tournament, 212.
Elchies, Lord, 59.
Erestoun's mailling, 191.
Ewing, William, Lochwinnoch, 218.

F

FAIRLIE, ALEXANDER, of Fairlie, 172.
Fairlie, John, Kilmarnock, 176.
Fairlie, William (of John Ferguson & Co., Calcutta), 62-66, 73, 83, 86, 95, 161-2, 167, 176.
Fairlie, James Ogilvy, of Coodham, 176.
Fairlie, Bonham & Co., London, 105, 138, 169.
Fairlie, Clark, Innes & Co., failure of, 138-9, 161.
Faulds, Robert, manufacturer, Beith, 202.
Fergusie, 208, 211.
Ferguson, John, Calcutta, 62.
Fillans, George, artist, Paisley, 188.
Findlay, John, Kilmarnock, 1, 176, 184.
Findlay, Margaret (or Wilson), 1, 2.
Findlay, Rev. Robert, D.D., 1; Letterof, 82.
Findlay, Mary (or Moor), 176.
Findlay, William, Kilmarnock, 176.
Fleming, Rev. John, D.D., Kilmalcolm, 90. *See* error corrected, p. 169 (note).
Fleming, Charles, surgeon, R.N., and Irvine, 169.
Fleming, Rebecca (Mrs Patrick Hunter), London, 169.
Fleming, Rev. William, D.D., Glasgow, 224-25.
Foreman, George, Calcutta, 87; Death, 88.
Foreman, G., & Co., Calcutta, 87.
Forshall, Dr, 200.
Fort-George, Canada, 49.
Foulds, Alexander, Irvine, 61.
Fowey, man-of-war, 18.
France—Attempt on Jersey, 26-27; Evil effects of war on India Commerce, 91.
French, Margaret (or Adam), 203.
Fulton & Co., Paisley, 99; Henry, of London, 115.
Fulton, John, of Grangehill, 115; Family, 219.
Fulton of Threepwood, 217.

G

GAGE, Governor, 18.
Gallows, introduction to the, 6.
Galt, Hugh, Irvine, 2.
Galt, James, carter, 175.
Garnock Bridge at Kilbirnie Manse ford, 207.
Garnock, John, 1st Viscount, 222.
Garpel, Lochwinnoch, 103.
Garven, George, Irvine, 181.
Gavin, John, 74.
Gemmill, Zacharias, Irvine, and his son, Robert Barclay, 57, 59, 60.
Giffin Barony, 3, 179; Court, 4, 183, 197 (note); Mylne, 179, 181; Castle, 186.
Gilmore, Allan, 95, 98.
Gilmore, John, 86-87; Mungo, 86.
Gilmore, John, & Co., 88, 140, 150, 160.
Gilmour, Margaret (or Montgomerie), Nether Kirktoun, 180.
Glass, Miss Mary, 117, 143, 160.
Glenarbach, Dunbartonshire, 225.
Goodrich, John and Agatha (or Shedden), 197.
Gottland, 212.
Graham, J., artist (Graham Gilbert), 197.
Grangehill, 104 (note), 115-116, 219.
Grangevale, 138, 142, 216; Monument, 222.
Grey, Earl, 127.

H

HAMILTON, ALEXANDER, of Barr, 170.
Hamilton, William, of Brownmuir, 68.
Hamilton, William, of Craighlaw, 54.

Hamilton, William, de Ladyland, 181.
Hamilton, John, writer, Mauchline, 171.
Hammills of Roughwood, 194-195.
Harvie of Braidlee, 4, 179-180.
Harvie, Ann (or Montgomerie), 4, 179.
Harvey, John, Balgray, 193.
Hastings, Warren, extravagant government of, 64.
Hawaii, 212.
Hazelhead (or Hesilhead), 179, 186.
Henderson, James, Greenock, 210.
Henderson, Jessie Glasgow (or Shedden), 210.
Home, Lieut.-Col. R., 123.
Horse cart, first used, in Beith Parish, 175.
Houses, earliest slated, in Beith Parish, 186.
Hunter, David, son of Patrick Hunter of Hunterston, 169.
Hunter, Mr and Mrs Patrick, of London, 80, 169.
Hunter, David, of Calcutta, 167, 169 (note).

I

India, extravagant expenditure by Governor-General, 88.
India House, 55, 166.
Indigo-planting, 73, 75.
Innes, Captain, of *Mary Ann*, 78, 80.
Innes, Cosmo, advocate, 126.
Innes, James, Irvine, 60-61.
Irvine, Presbytery Records, 191.
Irvine, Royal Burgh of, 172, 202.

J

Jacobite Ladies and MS. Tragedy, 6.
Jamaica, 45, 78.
Jamieson, William, house servant, 135, 153-154, 160.
Jersey, Island of, 26-27.

K

Kelso, Mr and Mrs, 98.
Kennedy, Miss Rachel, 199.
Ker of Kersland, John, 179.
Kerr of Crummock, 106.
Kerr, William, Gate-end, 107.
Kerr, John Hunter, Victoria, 212.
Kilmarnock, 1-2 ; "Willie Club," 71.
King, William, Glenhead, 194.
Kirkland-Stewarton, 183.
Knight, Lieut., 20.
Knockbuckle, 195.

L

Ladyland, 183.
Langi-ĝeren, 213.
Langland, Mr, Blackheath, 79.
Latta, William, of Boydston, and Mary (or Wilson), 218.
Law, Rev. W. J., 201.
Legg, Isaac, of Grangehill, 116.
Lennox, Mr, 63, 64, 66, 73, 75.
Lewis, Island of, 113, 127.
Linlithgow, West-port of, 183.
Lochwinnoch Loch, 183.
Lodge, Oliver, 201.
Logan, John, sculptor, Beith, 216.
London, Royal College of Surgeons, 70, 201, 208.
Lunardi makes the first aerial voyage in Britain, 45.
Lyan-Cross, 183.
Lyle, John and Hugh, 191.
Lymburner, Janet, 2.
Lynch-law in Young America, 48 (note).
Lyons, William, Captain R.N., 223.
Lyons, Janet, and W. D. W., 223.

M

MacClure, Gilbert, Ayr, and daughter . . . 85, 184.
M'Dowall, William, of Castle-Sempill, 183, 194.
M'Fadyen, Mr, Renfrew, 6.
MacFarlane, Dr John, Glasgow, 148-9.
M'Intosh, Captain, of *Hussar*, 53.
Mackenzie of Seaforth, 203.
Mackinlay, Isabella (or Scrimgeour), 201.
Mackintosh, Lucy C. (or Scrimgeour), 200.
Mackintosh, T. J. W., and daughter Isabella, 200.
M'Lellan, Rev. David, Beith, 71, 82, 115, 219.
M'Lellan, Catharine (or Fulton), 115, 219.
MacQueen, Lord Justice-Clerk, 61.
Macredie, Andrew, Provost of Stranraer 56.
Macredie, Tom, 212, 213.
Mahratta War, 208.
Mainshill, 183, 191.
Maitland Club, 225.

Malcolm, Robert, Glasgow, 220.
Manchester, Duke of, 64.
Marsheland, 190, 191, 194.
Matthie, John, Liverpool, 2.
Mayne, Captain S. W., 127, 187-8.
Mentone, 214.
Mid-Barnaich, 217.
Miller, Dr, Beith, 148-9, 154.
Miller, Hugh, Border, 126.
Mitchell, Rev. Dr, Glasgow, 125, 187.
Monro, Donald, gardener, 160.
Monte Vidéo, 214.
Montgomerie, Lord Alexander, 179.
Montgomerie, Lord Archibald, Provost of Irvine, 202.
Montgomerie, John, of Barrodger, 1.
Montgomerie, Rebecca (or Wilson), 1, 110.
Montgomerie of Bogston, Mathew in Braidstane, and Robert in Bogston, 3, 177; Family of latter, 178.
Montgomerie, Robert, the Feuar, 3, 4, 177, 178-9; Marriages and families, 178-181.
Montgomerie, Mathew, "Yr. of Bogston," Marriage, early death, and family, 4; Anecdotes of, 181.
Montgomerie, Robert, succeeds his grandfather; His marriages, family, and characteristics, 4-5, 181, 182, 183.
Montgomerie, Margaret, eldest surviving daughter, marries John Wilson, Bailie of Kilmarnock, 2, 5; Family, 184; Her eldest son chosen heir to Bogston, 5.
Montgomery, Robert Wilson, visits Bogston, 5; Rides with his grandfather to visit two ladies in Stirlingshire; Introduction to the gallows in passing through Glasgow! Ladies keen Jacobites; MS. Tragedy, 5-6; Visit Mr M'Fadyen, and are made Burgesses of Renfrew, 6; Goes to Virginia, and becomes merchant in Alexandria, 6; Returns after his grandfather's death, and succeeds to Bogston, taking the name of Montgomery, 6, 7, 185; After his father Bailie Wilson's death, removes with his sisters to Bogston, 7; Builds a new mansion-house and plants and improves his property, 24; His orchard, garden, yew tree, and rookery, 186; Correspondence between him and his brother, Mr Wilson, 9-98, *passim*; His tour to London and back, 45; Resides, latterly, at Crummock, 118; After dinner, on his 90th birthday, sings "Rule, Britannia;" His accomplishments, 121, 186; His character, talent for business, parochial and magisterial duties and his independence, 129-134, 186; His death, 129, after which the crows forsook their rookery, 187; His portrait by Sir Henry Raeburn, 134, 187-188; His deeds of settlement, by which he was succeeded in Bogston by his grand-nephew, Robert Montgomerie Borland, 126, 134; *see* Borland.
Montgomerie of Braidlie, 180.
Montgomerie of Craighouse, Robert, 180; Dr Robert and his wife Susannah, 5, 182; Dr Robert, younger, dies unmarried, 76; Jean, his half-sister, marries Robert Montgomerie, banker, in Irvine, 74 (note); Succeeds to Craighouse, 76, 110.
Montgomerie, Alexander, of Coilsfield, 172.
Montgomerie, Hon. Francis, of Giffin, 170, 173, 179, 181-2.
Montgomerie, George, of Brimlands, 181.
Montgomerie, Hew, of Silverwood, 179.
Montgomerie, Robert, of Hesilhead, 173, 179.
Montgomerie, Robert, in Giffin, and daughter Janet, 179, 180.
Moore (or Moor), of Bruntwood, 3, 4, 5, 67; *see* also Appendix I., pp. 171, 175; Appendix II., p. 181; and III., p. 200.
Moore, Anne (or Nisbet), 208.
Moore, . . . Surgeon in the Army, 176.
Moore, Francis, who sold the property, 176.
Moor, Mungo, merchant, Kilmarnock, and Mary Findlay, 176.
Moor, Agnes, married to John Fairlie, 176.
More, Professor J. Shanks, Edinburgh, 205.
Morishill, 67-68; Proverb and rhyme, 69; Changes in family there, including a youthful courtship, 93, 103; New mansion-house built, and policy grounds enclosed, 209; Other recent

improvements, 215 ; Variations in the name, 216 (note).
Morris, Robin, Bogston's man-servant, 103, 135.
Morton, James, writer, Ayr, 142.
Muir of Barkip, 1.
Muir, David, in Smithston Auchenmade, 193.
Muir, Robert, of Balgray, 193.
Muire, Robert, of Eastwood, 180.
Muirhead, James Patrick, advocate, 227.
Muirston, Beith, 104, 198.
Mure, Baron, of Caldwell, 48.
Mure, Captain, his narrow escape in New York, 48 (note).

N

NATAL, 213-14.
Neale, John, Edinburgh, 172.
Negro Slave claims his freedom, 69 (note).
Neill, General, of Barnweill, 220.
Neilgherries, 123, 208.
Nether-Gree, 183.
Nether-houses, Lochwinnoch, 105, 217.
Nettle-hirst, 219.
Nisbet, Alexander, N.P., Irvine, 173, 208.
North-Barr, Beith, 179, 180, 182.
North, Lord, 17.

O

OGILVY, Sir . . . of Airthrie, 176.
Ogilvy, Captain, and daughter Margaret (or Fairlie), 176.
Oldhall, Dunlop, 128.
Oliphant, Rev. James, and letter, 80-82.
Oude, Princes of, 111.
Over-Trees Lochwinnoch, 218.

P

PAILLOU, PETER, artist, London, 117 (note).
Park, William, of Maynshill, and Robert, his son, 170.
Parker, Bailie Hugh, Kilmarnock, his wives and families, 2, and note.
Paterson, Martin, banker, Kilmarnock, 118.
Paterson, Robert, writer, Kilmarnock, 1.
Paterson, Mr William, Kilmarnock, 74, 75, 84.
Paterson, William, his son, 86, 96.
Paterson, Charles, 43, 44.
Patrick, John, of Waterside and Trearne, and his wife, Marion Shedden, 198.
Patrick, Robert, M.D., of Trearne, 104, 108, 154, 160, 198, 210.
Patrick, Jean (Miss Patrick), 104, 115 198.
Patrick, John, afterwards of New York, 198.
Patrick, Elizabeth (Miss Betty), 104, 198.
Patrick, William, W.S., afterwards of Roughwood, 104, 108, 190, 198, 221.
Patrick, William, Calcutta, son of Robert of Drumbowie, 149 (note).
Patterson, Mr (Saltcoats), ship carpenter, 87.
Paulerspury Park, Northamptonshire, 196.
Pedderland-meadow, 202.
Peebles, Robert, of Maynshill, &c., 216 (note).
Peebles, John, of Crawfield, 180.
Peebles, Robert, merchant, Beith, 180.
Peebles, Margaret, or Montgomerie, (Craighouse), 180.
Peebles, Robert, N.P., 178.
Peebles, Catharine (or Hammill), 195.
Percy, Earl, 19.
Phœnix, Captain Rattray, 54-56, 62, 168.
Pitcairn, Major, 19.
Pitkellany, 103.
Porterfield of that Ilk, and daughter Anna (or Ralston), 198.
Prestwick, Baron of, 2.

Q

QUEBEC, 24, 55.

R

RAEBURN'S portrait of Mr Montgomery, 134, 187-189.
Ralston of that Ilk, Gavin, and daughter Jean (or Shedden), 198.
Rangoon, 122, 209.
Reform Bill, 127-128.
Reid, Mr, brother to Seabank, 63-4.
Reid, William, sculptor, London, 200.
Reid, Captain, R.N., of Grangehill, 116.
Renfrew, Burgesses of, 6.
Risk, Mr, banker, Paisley, 145.
Robertland, Barony of, 183.

Roche, Mr, of Youghall, and daughter Charlotte (or Borland), 112, 187.
Roche, Rev. George Tierney, 124, 126.
Roughwood, 194-5.
Rutherford, George, trustee, 194.

S

SCOT, CHARLES, 201.
Screw-propeller invented, 203.
Scrimgeour, James, of Foxhall, 200.
Scrimgeour, James, of London, and Janet Shedden, 69, 200; Family of, 200-1.
Scrimgeour, Robert, of Totteridge, and Margaret Wilson, 200; Family of, 200.
Scrimgeour, William Wilson and Maria Davies, 200; Family, 201.
Scrimgeour, John Shedden, wife and family, 201.
Scrimgeour, Margaret and Dorothea, 201.
Scrimgeour, Jessie Janet Shedden (or Wilson); and family, 201.
Sempill, Mary (or Montgomerie), 181.
Semple, John, Lord, 170.
Service, Robert, farmer, Bigholm, 193, 194.
Service, Robert, of Bogside, 194; William, 193.
"Shadow of a Shade," 136.
Shah Aulum of Hindostan, 218, 224.
Sheddens of Beith, 66, 67.
Shedden of Marsheland, John, who acquired the lands, 67 (*see* error corrected in Appendix III., pp. 190-91); Family of, 191.
Shedden, John, "Elder," and Margaret Montgomerie, 4, 67 (*see* Appendix III., pp. 191-2); Family of, 191-2.
Shedden, John, the "Lang Laird," wife and family, 192-3; Property sold, *ib.*
Shedden, John (or "Jack the Marsheland"), 131-132; Death and farewell salute, 193-4.
Shedden of Roughwood, Robert, 67, 194-5; Family of, 195-6.
Shedden, John, and Jean, daughter of Gavin Ralston of that Ilk, and family, 198-9.
Shedden, William Ralston ("Mr William"), merchant in Virginia and New York, 46-47; Marriages and families, 199.
Shedden, Marion (or Patrick) (*see* Patrick of Waterside and Trearne).
Shedden, William, and Beatrix Dobie; Family, 196-7, and note.
Shedden, Robert, of Paulerspury Park, and Agatha Goodrich; His liberality; Portrait; Family; Death, and armorial bearings, 196-7.
Shedden, Beatrix, and John Shedden of Muirston; Family, and daughter Agatha, 104, 198.
Shedden, James, of Windyhouse, and daughter Ann, 106.
Shedden, Robert, of Netherward, 195.
Shedden of Morishill, Robert, who acquired the lands, and married Margaret Simson, 67; His family and death, 69-70; His negro slave case, 69 (*see* also App. III., pp. 192, 199-202).
Shedden, John; His birth, 70; Goes to West Indies and America, 70; marries Barbara Wilson, 3, 70; His second daughter's birth, 99; Family particulars, 103; Mrs Shedden's death, 109-10; His own death and character, 135-6-7; Settlements, 137 (*see* also App., pp. 202-216).
Shedden, Janet (eldest daughter), born, 74; Marriage with James Adam, 93; Incidental notices, 115, 144, 150, 159 (*see* also pp. 203-4, and James Adam, W.S.)
Shedden, Robert (eldest son); His early life, 92-93; Goes to India as a cadet, shipwreck, and joins the 8th Madras N.I., 94; Home on leave, 103; Returns to India, and miniature taken in London, 106; His sudden death, and rank in the Service, 122-3 (*see* also pp. 204-5).
Shedden, Alexander (second son); Early life and taste for drawing, 93; Studies Anatomy under Professor Wilson in London, 94; Goes to India as Assistant-Surgeon on Madras Establishment, 94; Returns from India, 128; Succeeds to Morishill and Broadstone, 137; His indifference about the purchase of Willowyard, 138; Consultation on Mr Wilson's last illness, 148-9; Succeeds to Willowyard, 159

(*see* also Appendix III., pp. 202 and 208-9-10).
Shedden, Margaret ; Birth announced to Mr Wilson in India, 85 ; Early life, 99-100 ; Marriage with James Dobie, 107 ; Her portraits of Mr Wilson, 117 (note) ; Attention to Mr Wilson in his last illness, 152-155 ; Her family, Appendix, III., 205-6-7 ; Accession to Morishill and Willowyard, and resumes her patronymic, 211-12.
Shedden, Elizabeth, 103 ; Marriage with William Barr, Paisley, 111 (*see* also Appendix, 207-208).
Shedden, Jessie Caldwell, succeeds to Morishill, &c. ; Her early death, Appendix, 211.
Shedden-Dobie, John, his birth, 111 ; His varied life, inherits Morishill, and combines the name, &c., Appendix, 212-216.
Shedden, Elizabeth (or Reid), 69, 200.
Shedden, Margaret (or Watson), 69 ; Family and death, 200.
Shedden, Janet (or Scrimgeour), 69, 200.
Shedden, Mathew, meal-rioter, 132.
Shedden, Mathew, 192.
Shedden, James, of Palmermyre, and Janet Fleming, 192.
Shedden, John, of Headrighead, 192.
Simson, John, merchant, Beith, and family, 170.
Simson, "Mr William," of Willowyard, 3, 170 ; His marriage with Barbara Barclay, and only child, Janet, 3, 56, 170-1, 203 ; His second marriage with Elizabeth Moore, 67, and family, 171.
Simson, Janet, marries Bailie John Wilson, 3, 56, 171 ; Family, 185.
Simson, William (only son), succeeds to Willowyard, 171 ; Sells the property and goes to London, 172-3.
Simson, Margaret, marries Robert Shedden of Morishill, 67 ; and, secondly, James Wilson, 171 ; *see* also pp. 200, 201.
Simson, Elizabeth, 171.
Sinclair, Margaret (or Wilson), 218.
Smith, Margaret (or Findlay), 1.
Smith, William, Kilmarnock, and a Baron of Prestwick, 2.
Smith, Mary (or Parker), 2 ; Agnes (or Galt), Irvine, 2.
Smith, Dr Ebenezer, of Pitcon, and Margaret Parker, 2, 152.
Smith, Colonel, at Concord and Lexington, 19.
Smyth, Alexander, Glasgow, 125.
Snodgrass, David, Gorbals, 183.
Snodgrass, Neil, writer, 192, 199.
Snodgrass, William, Townhead of Braidstane, 175.
Sorn Castle, 183.
Spier & Love, writers, Beith, 160.
Spier, Robert, and his wife, Margaret Gibson, 189, 194.
Spier's School, 194.
Spier, William, Deepston, 192-3.
Stamp Act, and its effects in America, 12-14.
Steele, Robert, of Port-Glasgow, 137-8, 172-3.
Steuart, Adam, 9 (note), 16, 19, 168.
Steuart, William, of Glenormiston, 9, 168.
Stevenson, Hugh, of Threepwood, 192-3.
Stevenson, Mary (or Shedden), 193.
Stevenson, Tom, 194.
Stewart, John, and his wife, Janet, of Morishill, 16, 178, 216 (note).
Stewart, Margaret (or Adam), of Morishill, 67, 216 (note) ; *see* Adam of Bowfield.
Sumner, Dr J. B., Bishop of Chester, 227.
Sumner, Georgina (Mrs Dobie-Wilson), 227.
Swan, John, in Milne of Beith, 3, 178.

T

TAIT, MARGARET (or Wilson), 218.
"Tarnation Tories," 47.
Tea Duty and its results, 14-15.
Thomson, John, in Sorn, 180.
Towell, James, surgeon, H.E.I.C.S., 122.
Townhead Lands, Beith, 195.
Tragedy of the Chevalier, and the Prince in a Wood, 6.
Traverse, Indiaman, wreck of, 94, 204.
Trearne Mansion House, 104 (note).

V

Vansittart, Indiaman, 97, 101.
Victoria, Melbourne, in 1840 and in 1852, 212-213.

Virginia, Georgetown, 9 (note); Outbreak of Hostilities, 17, 18, 44, 67, 69, 168, 185, 196-7, 199.
Vizianagram, Madras, 122-3, 205.

W

WARRIX, 3, 56; Plea, 56-62, 86.
Washington, medallion seal of, 135.
Watson, Charles, London, 69, 200.
Wellington Administration ends, 127.
Welsh, Mrs Jean, Sorn Castle, 5, 183.
Weymouth, Lord, 26.
Wilkie, David and John, writers, Glasgow, 147.
Willowyard estate, 137-9, 172-5; Destination of, by Mr Wilson, 159, 210.
Wilson, James, merchant, Kilmarnock, his wife and family, 1, 2, 184.
Wilson, John ("Bailie Wilson"), 1; marries Margaret Montgomerie, 2; Her death, 3; His second marriage with Janet Simson, 3; Their deaths, 7; His family record, 134 (note); *see* also Appendix, 171, 184-5, 203.
Wilson, Robert (or Montgomery), 3; *see* Montgomery of Bogston.
Wilson, Elizabeth, 3, 24, 36, 38; Her sudden death, 113; Character and settlement, 114; *see* also 184.
Wilson, Mary, 3, 24, 36, 38; Marriage with Dr Borland, 44; *see* Borland.
Wilson, William ("Mr Wilson" of *Memoir*), Birth and parentage, 3; Early days, 7-8:— Goes to Virginia, and becomes assistant in James Wilson & Son's store in Georgetown, Maryland, 9 (note); The Revolution obliges him to leave and return home, 21-23; His correspondence with Mr Montgomery, 9-22, *passim;* Visits Bogston, 24:— Goes to London, and undertakes to establish a house in Quebec, under the firm of William Wilson, Junior, & Co., 24-5; Sails for Canada in ship *Betty*, under Convoy, and French Attempt on Jersey, 26-27; His correspondence with Mr Montgomery, 27-52, *passim;* Bad state of trade in Canada, 27-8, 42-3; An agreeable family, 29; Enters into a new partnership, to be carried on in Quebec and Montreal, under the firm of Alexander Campbell & Co., 30; His love affair, 31-40; The Revolution progresses, 40; Independence declared, and acknowledged by England, 41; Bad report of affairs in the United States, 43; His sleigh journey from Montreal to Philadelphia, *viâ* New York, and back to Quebec, with his opinion on the state and prospects of the country, 46-50; Case of Lynch law frustrated, 48; Returns to London and Bogston, 52:— Resolves to go to India, 53; Makes a too precipitate arrangement of his old connection with James Wilson & Sons, 54, 65; Gets a passage to Calcutta as Purser in the Company's ship *Phœnix*, 54; His experience at the India House, 55, 168; The Warrix plea, 56-62, 86; In Calcutta kindly received by Mr Fairlie and Mr Ferguson, 62; His correspondence with Mr Montgomery resumed, 63-98, *passim;* Goes with Mr Lennox to Luchipore, 63; Hunts wild boars, 65; Turns Indigo-planter, and crop totally destroyed by flood, 66; His mode of life there, 72-3; Sows again, but crop a failure, and Indigo-planting given up, 75; Seized with fever at Chandernagore, 75; Returns to Luchipore, intending to try the manufacture of cloth, but that idea abandoned, 75; Troubles from his former connection with James Wilson & Sons, 65, 72, 74-75, 77, 83-84, 86; Becomes a partner in the shipbuilding firm of G. Foreman & Co., Calcutta, 87; Afterwards carried on under the firm of John Gilmore & Co., 88-91; Evil effects on trade of the war with France, 91-2; Departure from Calcutta of his friends Mr Fairlie and Mr Allan Gilmore, 95-167; Shipbuilding increasing, hopes are entertained of soon returning home, 95-6; Gets rid of his old Canadian debt, 96; His generosity, at various times, to his sisters, 88-90, 92, 96; Announces his departure from India in the *Vansittart*, 97; Arrival in London and at Bogston, 98:— At Mr Wilson's first interview with the Author he gives away something, 102;

His monetary affairs, 105; Resolves to settle down in the neighbourhood of Bogston and Beith, and eventually purchases Crummock, 104-7; Goes to London with Robert Shedden, pays his passage to India, and brings back a present for his mother, 106-7; Beith Town House, 108-9; His portrait hung in Town-Hall, 116-7 and note; Mrs Shedden's affecting death, 109-10; Loss by Mr Adam, 111; His kindness to Robert Borland, 112; and to Mr Dobie, 113; Miss Wilson's sudden death at Crummock and his beneficence to his three nieces, 114-15; His brother at last consents to live with him at Crummock, 118; Mr Wilson's eyesight failing, Miss Glass, engaged as lady companion to Miss Jenny, reads to them, 117; He becomes totally blind, 119; A pack of cards so marked as to enable him again to play whist, 120; Daily life, 121-2; Mr Wilson again assists Borland, 124; and Mr Adam, 127; His interest in Parliamentary reform and the Reform Bill, 127-28; His brother's gentle death at the age of 95 years and 17 days, 129; Mr Wilson presents Mr Dobie with his brother's watch, chain, and seals, 137; Willowyard purchased by Mr Wilson, 137-9; His serious loss by the failure of Fairlie, Clark, Innes & Co., and his equanimity thereon, 139; Miss Jenny's sacrifice in aid, 141; Drive to Irvine, Ayr, and Kilmarnock, 143; Miss Jenny's death and her virtues, 144-5; Legal difficulties in making a blind man's will, 146-7; Attacks of gout and shivering fits, 147-8; Mr Wilson's last game of whist, 148; Serious illness and consultations, 148-9; He arranges his affairs with calmness and resignation, 150-1; His keepsakes, 153-4; His gentle death, 155; Summary of his character, 156-8; Funeral, 159; Settlements and legacies, 159-60; Estimate of his general estate and properties, 161-2; His acts of generosity towards Mr and Mrs Dobie and family, 162-3: *see* also Postscript to *Memoir*, 167-9, and Appendix II., p. 185.

Wilson, Barbara ("Babby"), 3, 9, 24, 36, 38; Marriage, 66, 70, 74; Death, 109-10; *see* Appendix III., 202-3, and 308.

Wilson, Janet ("Miss Jenny"), 3, 9, 24, 38, 102, 107; Her sacrifice, 140-1; Illness and death, 143; Funeral and settlements, 144; *Virtues*, 144-5; *see* also Appendix II., 185.

Wilson, Jeanie, who died young, 9, 185.

Wilson, James, and Eupham Paterson, 1, 8, 24.

Wilson, James, 12-13, 34, 43, 98.

Wilson, William, 25, 28, 30-1, 34.

Wilson, Cumberland, his marriage with Miss Allan, 31.

Wilson, James, & Sons (or Son), Kilmarnock, and Georgetown, Maryland, &c., 8, 25, 30, 39; In difficulties, 51, 54-5, 65; Sequestration, 72, 74-5; Dividend, 77.

Wilson, William, Junior, & Co., Quebec and Montreal, 24, 31.

Wilson, Robert, who settled in Maryland, married, and had descendants there, 1, 35.

Wilson, William, married to . . . Muir, and, secondly, to Rebeccah Montgomerie, 1, 110.

Wilson, James, schoolmaster, his marriage with the widow of Robert Shedden, and removal to London, 70; *see* also Appendix III., pp. 171-172, 201.

Wilson, James, Professor of Anatomy, 90, 94, and Appendix, pp. 200-201, 210; Portrait, 201; Family, 202.

Wilson, James Arthur, physician, London, 70, and Appendix, pp. 201-202.

Wilson, Margaret (or Scrimgeour), 202.

Wilson, Martha ("Patty"), or Shedden, 202.

Wilson, Sophia-Maria, 202.

Wilson of Bourtrees, John, of Rowantree-hill, App. IV., 217.

Wilson, John, of Mid-Barnaich, wife, and family, 217.

Wilson, Umphray, of Nether-houses and Bourtrees, wife, and family, 202.

Wilson, John, of Nether-houses, 202.

Wilson, William, of Bourtrees, 99; Mar-

riage with Janet Cochran, and family, App. IV., pp. 217-18.
Wilson, Dr Robert, of India and London, 111, 115-16, 217, 218-19, 224.
Wilson, Janet (or Dobie), 99, 218-219.
Wilson Dobie-Wilson, 115, 219, 224-227 ; Armorial bearings, 224.
Wilson, Robert Dobie-, 227.
Wilson, Mary, 227.
Wilson, Mrs Wilson Dobie- (or Sumner), 227.
Wilson, Alexander, of Trees, wife, and family, 218.
Wilson, Robert, of Hoylake, Cheshire, 218.
Wilson, David, 27th Regiment, 199.
Wilson, Ann, wife of W. R. Shedden, 199.
Wilson, Andrew, wright, Beith, 183.
Wilson, John, of Bowfield, 179.
Woodside House, 186.
Wright, William, of Calderpark, Lochwinnoch, 218.
Wright, William, of Burrumbeep and Langi-geren, Victoria (grandson of the above William), 213.
Wright, James and John, of Glasgow, 218.
Wylie, William, wife, and family, 193.

Y

YOUNG, CHARLES E., Queensland, 204.
Young, Henry-Shedden-Baring, 204.

FINIS.